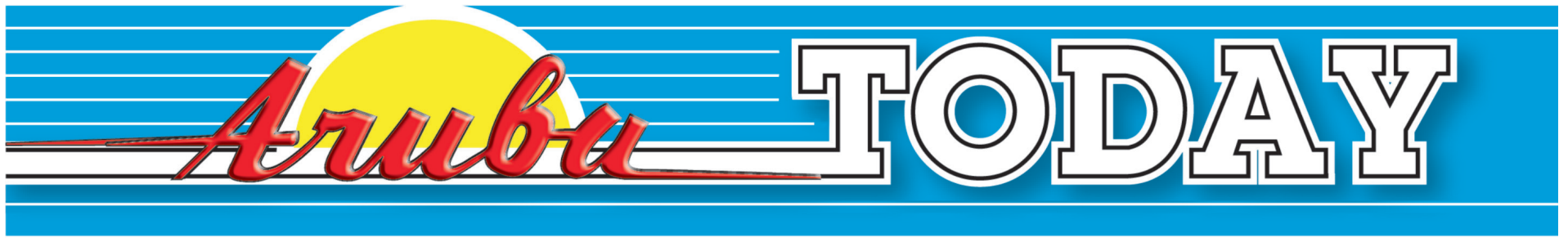


Portugal knifes public deficit

See Aruba Today Business on Pages B8 & 9



On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com Website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: 582-7800 Saturday, April 16, 2011

Stoll suspended



The Los Angeles Kings know they will be without forward Jarret Stoll for one game for his blindside hit that knocked San Jose defender Ian White out of Game 1 of their first-round series. Now they must find a way to replace Stoll, who was their best faceoff man in Game 1 and teamed with Smyth and Justin Williams on Los Angeles' most productive line in the opener.

More Aruba Today Sports in Section B

Gulf oil rig rescuers honored



U.S. Coast Guard Rear Admiral Mary Landry salutes as she leaves a ceremony honoring members of offshore supply vessel Damon B. Bankston and Coast Guard helicopter crews who helped rescue 115 survivors of last year's Deepwater Horizon explosion at Coast Guard Air Station New Orleans.

Continued to Page 2

Resident Evil



Gadhafi using cluster bombs at civilians

The forces loyal to Gadhafi, who have surrounded the Libyan city and vowed to crush its anti-Gadhafi rebellion, have been firing into residential neighborhoods with heavy weapons, including cluster bombs that have been banned by much of the world and ground-to-ground rockets, according to the accounts of witnesses and survivors and physical evidence on the ground.

(The New York Times)

By C.J. CHIVERS
© 2011 New York Times

MISRATA, Libya – Military forces loyal to Moammar

Gadhafi have been firing into residential neighborhoods with heavy weapons, including cluster bombs that have

been banned by much of the world and ground-to-ground rockets, according to witnesses and survivors, as well as physical evidence.

When fired into populated areas, these so-called indiscriminate weapons place civilians at grave risk.

The dangers were evident Friday at the site of an impact crater, where eight people had been killed while standing in a bread line. The use of such weapons in these ways could add urgency to the arguments by Britain and France that the alliance needs to step up attacks on the Gadhafi forces, to better fulfill the U.N. mandate to protect civilians.

It could also apply conflicting pressures on the United States. President Barack Obama has spoken strongly about how U.S. air power helped avert a humanitarian crisis in Libya but also insisted on ceding control of the campaign to

NATO earlier this month.

The United States, itself, has used cluster munitions, in battlefield situations in Afghanistan and Iraq, and in a strike

Continued to Page 2



Migrant workers display a rocket that landed near them in a barrage from government forces near the port in Misrata, Libya. Airstrikes from the NATO coalition continued to strike targets on the ground in Libya, including most fiercely in Misrata, where Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, at a NATO meeting in Berlin, said the alliance was "especially concerned about the atrocities unfolding."

(The New York Times)

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Gulf oil rig rescuers honored

BELLE CHASSE, La. (AP) — Nearly one year after an explosion aboard the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig killed 11 workers and led to the nation's worst offshore oil spill, the Coast Guard honored a supply vessel's crew who helped rescue 115 survivors. During a ceremony Friday at an air station in Belle Chasse, Coast Guard Vice Admiral Sally Brice-O'Hara presented awards to nine crew members of the Damon B. Bankston and about two dozen helicopter pilots, rescue swimmers and other Coast Guard personnel who responded the April 20 disaster in the Gulf of Mexico, about 50 miles off the Louisiana coast. The awards include the Coast Guard's certificate of valor and distinguished public service award. "We pay tribute to their readiness, to their quick thinking, to their expert ship handling," Brice-O'Hara said of the supply vessel's crew. "Today we honor you for your willingness to act. We recognize you for a job well done." Alwin Landry, who commanded the Bankston on the night of the explosion, thanked the Coast Guard crews that flew in and tended to injured workers. Landry, who received the Coast Guard's certificate of valor, recalled the relief he felt when he spotted the first flashing light in the sky, signaling help had arrived. □



U.S. Coast Guard Rear Admiral Mary Landry salutes as she leaves a ceremony honoring members of offshore supply vessel Damon B. Bankston and Coast Guard helicopter crews who helped rescue 115 survivors of last year's Deepwater Horizon explosion at Coast Guard Air Station New Orleans.

Continued from Front

on suspected militants in Yemen in 2009.

The cluster munitions were visible late Thursday night, in the form of what appeared to be at least three 120-millimeter mortar rounds that burst in the air over the city, scattering high-explosive bomblets below. The same munitions were fired Friday, amid a fierce barrage of fire from the Gadhafi forces.

Remnants of expended shells, examined and photographed by The New York Times, show the rounds to be MAT-120 cargo mortar projectiles, each of which carries and distributes 21 submunitions designed both to kill people and to penetrate light armor.

Components, according to their markings, were manufactured in Spain in 2007 — one year before Spain signed the international Convention on Cluster Munitions and pledged to destroy its stocks. Libya, like the United States, is not a signatory to the convention. The Spanish Defense



A doctor operates on a 6-year-old girl, who was reportedly shot in the chest by pro-Gadhafi forces, at a hospital in Misrata, Libya, on April 14, 2011. Airstrikes from the NATO coalition continued to strike targets on the ground in Libya on Thursday, including most fiercely in Misrata, where Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, at a NATO meeting in Berlin, said the alliance was "especially concerned about the atrocities unfolding." □

Ministry had no immediate comment.

The cluster munitions are not the only indiscriminate heavy weapon system to imperil the city's neighborhoods. The Qasr Ahmed residential district was struck Thursday by multiple rockets, known as Grads.

The Grad is an area weapons system designed in the Soviet Union to blanket a battlefield with multiple and virtually simultaneous rocket blasts. The rockets were readily identified and some fragments bore markings indicating they had been manufactured during the Cold War. □

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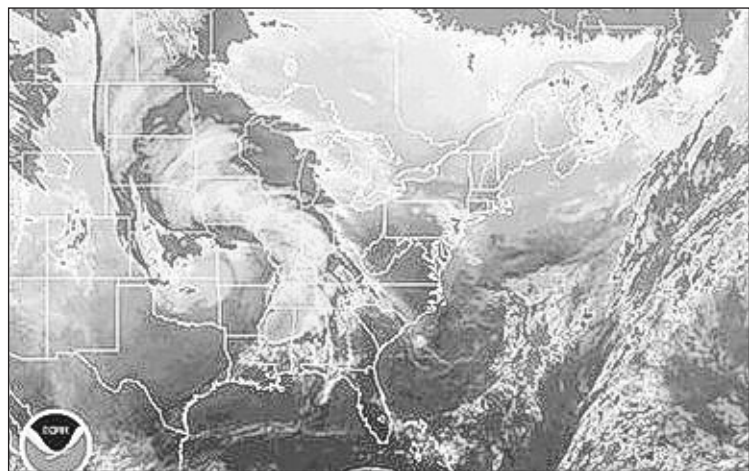
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In Arkansas

Tornadoes, storms kill at least 9




Storm systems are seen over the U.S. in an infrared satellite image taken.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark – Violent storms ripped across the south overnight and Friday, killing at least nine people including three children, and cutting a path of destruction through Arkansas' largest city of Little Rock, authorities said on Friday.

Seven people were killed in Arkansas early Friday morning while two were killed in Oklahoma. More fatalities occurred in the area of Clinton, Mississippi, according to Department of Transportation spokeswoman Carrie Adams, but she could not provide a number and referred questions to local police, who could not immediately be reached for comment.

"It was like a bomb went off,"

said one Clinton man, who did not wish to be identified. His home was destroyed when a tornado passed through the area north of Jackson.

Two tornadoes also were reported in Choctaw County in southwestern Alabama, according to Art Faulkner, director of the Alabama Emergency Management Agency. Forecasters are predicting more storms, according to the National Weather Service, Faulkner said. Faulkner noted the state has several large events this weekend, including sports events at the University of Alabama and Auburn University, and a major NASCAR race at Talladega expecting more than 100,000 fans. 

Nearly a year later

Gulf still grapples with BP oil spill

By Anna Driver
Associated Press

MISSISSIPPI – When a BP oil rig exploded and sank in the Gulf of Mexico last April, killing 11 workers, authorities first reported that no crude was leaking into the ocean.

They were wrong.

The disaster that captivated the world's attention for 153 days struck at 9:53 p.m. CDT on April 20, when a surge of methane gas known to rig hands as a "kick" sparked an explosion aboard the Deepwater Horizon rig as it was drilling the mile-deep Macondo 252 well off Louisiana's coast. Two days later, the rig sank.

One year on, oil from the largest spill in U.S. history clogs wetlands, pollutes the ocean and endangers wildlife, not to mention the toll it has inflicted on the coastal economies of Florida, Mississippi, Alabama and especially Louisiana.

It was the biggest ever accidental release of oil into an ocean.

Even so, environmental damage from the ruptured well that spewed more than 4 million barrels of oil into the Gulf in three months seems far less



An exhausted oil-covered brown pelican tries to climb over an oil containment boom along Queen Bess Island Pelican Rookery, 3 miles northeast of Grand Isle, Louisiana.


dire than the worst predictions, according to some Gulf residents and experts.

"It's a horrible mess but it's not the end of the world," said Edward Overton, professor emeritus of environmental sciences at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. "Some people thought it would be the end of the Gulf for decades and that's not even near the case," Overton said. "None of those predictions were right."

Such considerations are cold comfort to Gulf residents who saw their livelihoods decimated by the spill. More than 500,000 have claimed compensation from a \$20 billion fund set up by BP at the in-

sistence of President Barack Obama and administered by Kenneth Feinberg.

The mitigated view will also do little to stem the tide of litigation that will take years to make its way through federal court in New Orleans and beyond as plaintiffs seek to extract damages from London-based BP, which owned the Macondo well, and Swiss-based Transocean, which owned the rig.

"Fishermen are still worried that there's oil on the bottom of the Gulf. But we've got no control over that," said Errol Voisin, manager of the Lafitte Frozen Foods plant in Louisiana, who spoke ahead of a new shrimping season. 

1872 mining law threatens Grand Canyon



South Rim from the Bright Angel trail in the Grand Canyon.

By Deborah Zabarenko
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A U.S. law from the pick-and-shovel days of the Western frontier now threatens natural treasures including Grand Canyon National Park as mining claims on public lands proliferate, an environmental group said on Friday.

The 1872 Mining Law, signed by President Ulysses S. Grant, allows mining companies including foreign-owned ones to take about \$1 billion a year in gold and other metals from public lands without paying a royalty, according to a report by the nonprofit Pew Environment Group.

"The law was enacted to en-

courage the development of the West and rewarded those people who trekked across the frontier and gave them the right to mine gold, silver, whatever other valuable metals they could find on public land in unlimited amounts for free," said Pew's Jane Danowitz. While the law has remained largely unchanged, the mining industry has expanded so that now multinational corporations still enjoy "basically free access to a majority of public lands," Danowitz said in a telephone interview.

She said the government estimates these companies legally take at least \$1 billion a year worth of gold, uranium and other metals from public lands

without compensating U.S. taxpayers.

This contrasts with the oil, gas and coal industries, which have paid royalties to the U.S. Treasury for decades.

Federal data show that more than 8,000 mining claims have been staked in national forest and other public land around the Grand Canyon since 2004, an increase of 2,000 percent, while more than two-thirds of the claims on public lands near Yosemite National Park and 99 percent of claims surrounding Arches and Canyonlands in Utah have been staked since 2005.

The report found mining claims have also been staked around Joshua Tree National Park in California, Mount Rushmore National Memorial in South Dakota, Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument in Washington state, Siskiyou Wild Rivers in Oregon, Gila Wilderness in New Mexico and Dinosaur National Monument in Colorado and Utah.

Congressional efforts to overhaul the 1872 Mining Law stalled in 2009, prompting Interior Secretary Ken Salazar to start a process to protect approximately 1 million acres around the Grand Canyon that were threatened by uranium mining operations.

The Obama administration called for comment on four versions of this protection plan, and a decision is expected this summer. □



A view of the New York New York casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Oops! 3 billion stamp error

By Jonathan Allen

Associated Press

NEW YORK — After printing 3 billion copies of a new postage stamp bearing an image of the Statue of Liberty, the United States Postal Service received a strange question from a stamp collector.

Did postal officials realize the photograph was not of the famed statue in New York Harbor, but of a less-feted fiberglass and Styrofoam replica outside a Las Vegas casino?

They did not.

"We certainly regret having made the error," Roy Betts, a USPS spokesman, said on Friday.

The first-class postage stamp, which shows a low-angled close-up of Lady Liberty's face and crown, was issued in December, according to an announcement about the "world-recognized" symbol of the United States.

The statement described the statue as a gift from the people of France, designed by sculptor Frederic-Auguste Bartholdi, which stands 305 feet tall on Liberty Island off the tip of Manhattan, "a symbol of political freedom and democracy for millions of people around the world."

None of which is quite true of the half-sized replica outside the New York-New York Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas.

The USPS became aware of what it is calling a "mischaracterization" about a month ago, Betts said. News of the mix-up was first reported in the latest issue of Linns Stamp News, a magazine for stamp enthusiasts.

The differences are subtle: the eyebrows and eyes of the replica are a little more sharply defined and she has a small rectangular patch on the central spike of her crown that the original lacks.

The younger Las Vegas model also looks more fresh-faced, whereas the 124-year-old New Yorker is showing her age with darker-colored streaks on her nose and cheeks.

Betts partly blamed Getty Images, the stock photography company that supplied the image, for ambiguously labeling the image in its database.

While the image is simply titled "Statue of Liberty," the keywords attached to it include "Nevada" and "Replica Statue of Liberty Las Vegas," although Betts say this information was added only after the USPS raised the point with Getty.

Getty Images did not return a call seeking comment. □

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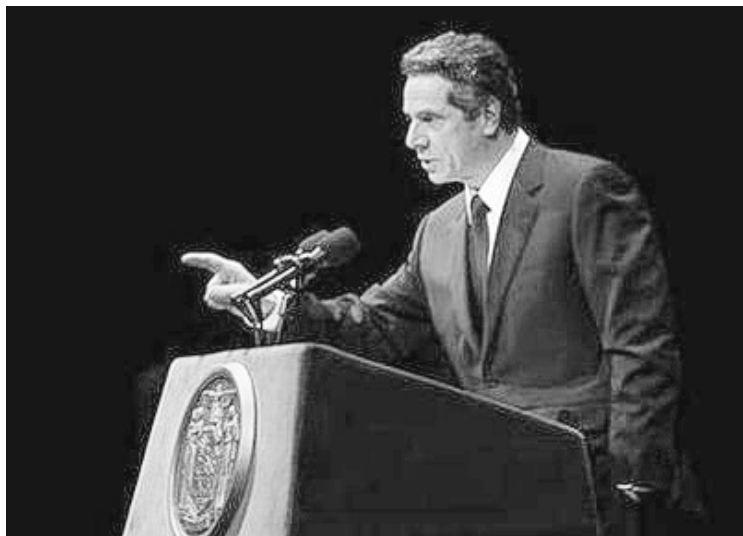
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New York court system to lay-off up to 500 employees



New York Governor Andrew Cuomo presents his 2011-12 budget proposals in Albany, New York.

By Dan Wiessner
Associated Press


NEW YORK – The New York State court system will lay-off as many as 500 workers in the coming weeks, according to a union memo released on Friday, as the state works to close a \$10 billion budget gap. New York state lawmakers recently passed a spending plan for fiscal year 2012 that includes across-the-board cuts to state agencies. New York is not alone. Many cash-strapped states across the United States have been firing workers, delaying big building projects and raising taxes after the 2008 recession and financial crisis left state coffers severely depleted.

David Bookstaver, a spokesman for the court system, confirmed that layoffs are in the works but said it's too early to tell how many jobs or which ones will be lost. "In the next two or three weeks we'll have a firm understanding of numbers," Bookstaver said. New York is not alone in slashing expenses in its court system. Connecticut's top judge on Friday testified at a budget hearing that a proposed 10 percent cut to that state's court system could result in layoffs and courthouse closings. Cuomo, a Democrat, has threatened 9,800 layoffs if

public employee unions do not concede \$450 million in savings from wages and benefits. The New York state memo, prepared by the Civil Service Employees Association, says that no decisions have been made regarding what positions would be eliminated. The court system currently has 15,350 employees, not in-

cluding judges. The cuts follow tense budget talks. After Governor Andrew Cuomo publicly criticized the court administration for proposing to hold spending flat, the court system agreed to a \$100 million cut, but lost an additional \$70 million in the final week of budget talks. A Cuomo spokesman was not immediately available to com-




ment on the CSEA memo, which says that some layoff notices could be sent out as early as next week, and would be effective May 4. The freshman governor this week announced an accord with a relatively small law enforcement union, including a three-year wage freeze and increased health care contributions. □




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World's oldest man 114, dies in Montana



114 year old Walter Breuning sits for an interview with a reporter for the Associated Press in the lobby of his senior residence in Great Falls Officials at a Montana retirement home say the world's oldest man has died.

By MATT VOLZ
Associated Press

GREAT FALLS, Mont. — Walter Breuning's earliest memories stretched back 111 years, before home entertainment came with a twist of the radio dial. They were of his grandfather's tales of killing South-

erners in the Civil War. Breuning was 3 and horrified: "I thought that was a hell of a thing to say." But the stories stuck, becoming the first building blocks into what would develop into a deceptively simple philosophy that Breuning, the world's oldest

man at 114 before he died Thursday, credited to his longevity. Here's the world's oldest man's secret to a long life: Embrace change, even when the change slaps you in the face. ("Every change is good.") Eat two meals a day ("That's all you need.") Work as long as you can ("That money's going to come in handy.") Help others ("The more you do for others, the better shape you're in.") Then there's the hardest part. It's a lesson Breuning said he learned from his grandfather: Accept death. "We're going to die. Some people are scared of dying. Never be afraid to die. Because you're born to die," he said. Breuning died of natural causes in a Great Falls hospital where he had been a patient for much of April with an undisclosed illness, said Stacia Kirby. □

Boomer moms keep supporting grown kids?



Baby Boomer parents

By Barbara Liston
Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — More than half of Baby Boom-generation mothers support adult children financially and 60 percent are the go-to person when their grown kids encounter problems, according to a survey issued on Thursday.

That trend contrasted with the 86 percent of those 46- to 65-year-old women surveyed who said they were fully independent of their own parents by age 25.

"We wanted to get the hell out as soon as possible," said Liz Kitchens, a partner in The Kitchens Group, a public opinion research firm in Orlando, Florida, that conducted the survey.

The company conducted the national online survey of 441 women between February 14 and March 14.

Eighty percent of the women said it was "very accurate" to describe themselves as reliable and dependable, a much stronger response than other self-described characteristics including "spontaneous and flexible," or "playful and fun" received. □

Parents of tipsy toddler sue over drink mixup

By James B. Kelleher
Associated Press

CHICAGO — The parents of the Michigan toddler accidentally served alcohol at an Applebee's restaurant last week have filed suit against the chain's parent company, saying its employees have made similar mistakes with other children.

Taylor Dill-Reese and Domi-

nic Wilson, the parents of 15-month-old Dominic Lacey Wilson, filed the lawsuit late Tuesday in Oakland County, where the restaurant is located. The suit claims the two suffered emotional distress as a result of the incident and seeks unspecified monetary damages from the company for medical bills and non-economic losses.

Last Friday, the family visited an Applebee's in Madison Heights, Michigan, where among other things they ordered a child's meal for Dominic Jr. that was supposed to come with apple juice.

What the little boy apparently got instead was a margarita mix with alcohol in it and as he drank it he began exhibiting what the complaint char-

acterizes as "grossly inappropriate" behavior.

When the child was taken to a nearby hospital, he was found to have a blood alcohol content of 0.10 above Michigan's drunk-driving limit of 0.08. He also suffered "headaches, nausea" and other classic hangover symptoms "for a period of days after the incident," according to the suit. □

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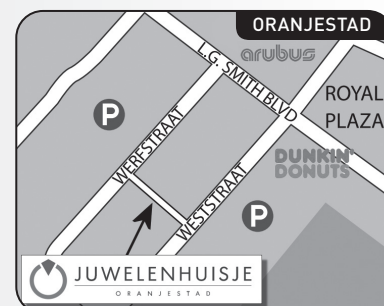
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PALM BEACH -- While the world is recovering from the recent economic decline, Aruba's real estate market continues to offer great investment opportunities to those prepared to take the plunge, and go ahead and live their dreams.

One of the newest, most exciting projects is Tuscany Residence Aruba, which recently captured headlines as it announced construction of a low-density gated community just across the island's much-anticipated Ritz Carlton, now under construction.

The sizeable property destined to become Tuscany Residence Aruba was just recently razed and is presently being nicely fenced in preparation for a model-home construction, scheduled to start in November, to conclude in the summer of 2011. Tuscany Residence Aruba is the initiative of a Dutch group of investors, Esprit Project Development,

in collaboration with the local Toscana Development NV.

The partnership produced an impressive design for a master-planned community with free-standing homes, stylish condos and tasteful townhouses sharing upscale, fully landscaped community pools and tropical gardens, a fitness center, a chic club-house, a gourmet restaurant, bar and ample parking, in a secure, exclusive, family friendly enclave.

They are especially proud of the new technology which will be introduced here for the first time at Tuscany Residence Aruba. All homes, he explains, will be equipped with superb, digitally controlled, energy efficient air-conditioning units. Tuscany Residence Aruba will keep its energy consumption down by virtue of the double glazing on its glass windows and doors, and further keep the temperatures low via misting systems, installed on all terraces. The complex will



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Opportunities at Marriott to grow as professionals

Paul Gremel speaks to University of Aruba students



Paul Gremel introducing the students to the Marriott Finance division.

PALM BEACH – On Thursday April 14, 2011, the University of Aruba (UA) invited Mr. Paul Gremel, Market Director of Finance for Marriott Vacation Club International (MVCI) to present the opportunities in Finance at Marriott

to young professionals of the Accounting and Sales discipline. Human Resource Coordinator of the Aruba Marriott Ms. Pearl Eidsen provided the students information about the international lodging company and presented the Mar-



Paul Gremel and Pearl Eidsen of Marriott visiting the University of Aruba.

riott's benefits offered to its associates.

With over 1,071 permanent associates, the Aruba Marriott encourages continuous growth, providing on the job training and development plans as well as fun filled team activities throughout the year. The Aruba Marriott has several open positions in different departments such as the Accounting, Front Office, At

Your Service, Loss Prevention, Housekeeping and Food and Beverage in the three Marriott properties. Besides permanent full-time and/or part-time job opportunities, the Marriott offers a few internships for minimal 5 to 6 months at Human Resources and Sales.

Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino boasts 411 guestrooms -- the most spacious on

the island -- each with large, private balconies overlooking lush landscape and the sparkling waters of the Caribbean Sea. On property, seven restaurants and cafes provide fare from light to elegant, while the largest casino in Aruba, a 6,500 square-foot spa, free-form swimming pool with cascading waterfalls and high-energy health club offer entertaining diversions. □

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Ladies' Night at Aqua Grill



PALM BEACH - Although not officially a Ladies' Night, recently we captured several groups of ladies out for a night on the island of Aruba at the island's premier seafood restaurant, Aqua Grill.

The Palm Beach dining hot spot offers critically-acclaimed seafood dishes, and these ladies, who chose the island of Aruba for a fun girls-only getaway, decided that

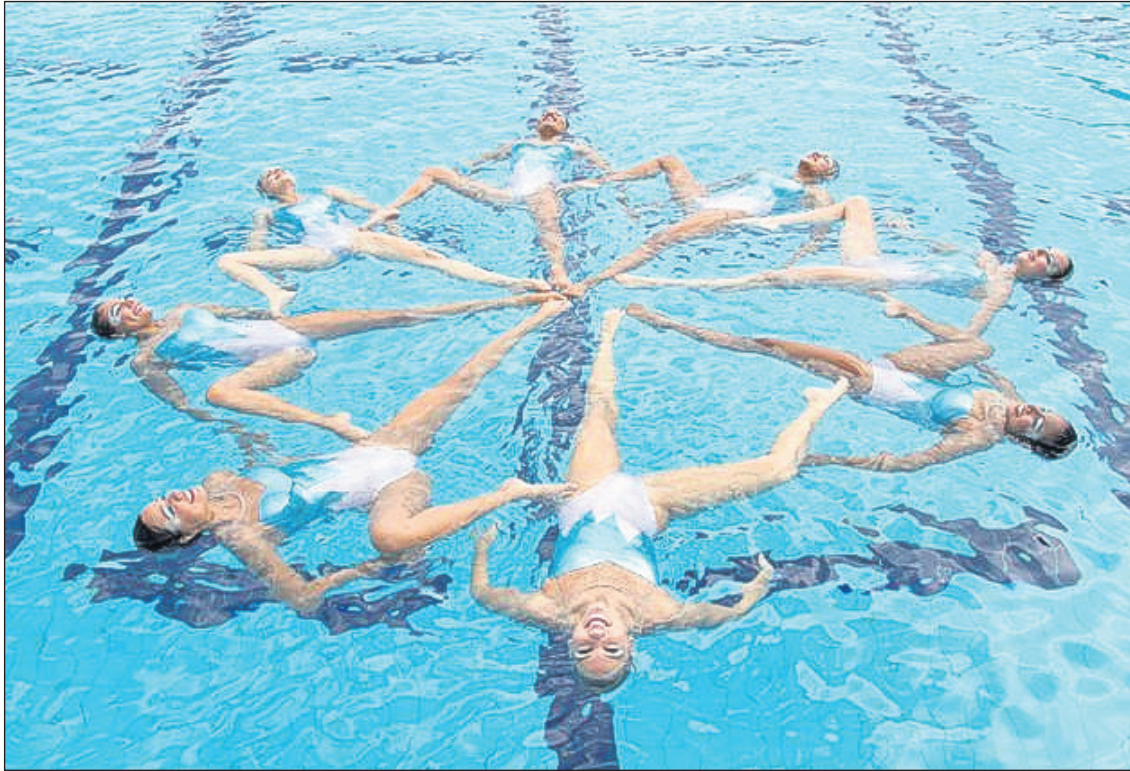
Aqua Grill was a must during their stay here.

"I couldn't think of a better way to spend one of our evenings on this island than to be here in Aqua Grill's lounge sipping martinis in anticipation of some of that live Maine lobster!," commented one of the ladies from a group visiting here from Ohio. A group of gals from Boston comes to Aruba every year for a re-

prieve from husbands, kids, and grandkids, and always makes sure one of those evenings is spent at Aqua Grill. Another group comes to Aqua Grill several times during their vacation just to have cocktails and fresh oysters in the restaurant's chic lounge. Aqua Grill is open nightly, and is located in the heart of Palm Beach next to Amazonia Churrascaria. □

The public is invited to watch

Synchronized Swimming Selection to be held next Saturday



SAVANETA-- On Saturday the 16th of April at 11:00am at the pool in Savaneta, the Synchronized Swimming Selection Athletes of 16 – 18 years of

age will be officially presenting the routines they are going to be competing with abroad on the 21st of April in Calgary Canada for the Canadian

Open and later in the year for the Brazil Open on the 31st of May. The younger selection team will also be presenting their routines for their com-

petitions in June in Toronto Canada and in June in Puerto Rico. Everyone is invited to join and support these athletes at the pool. Admission is free.

We want to thank everyone for the support they gave the Synchronized Swimmers and look forward to seeing them on Saturday at 11:00am. □

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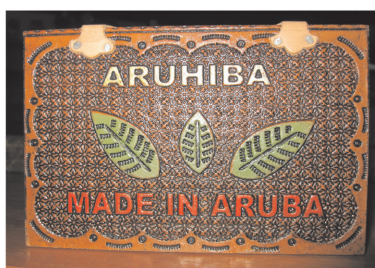
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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced

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he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is specially designed for the cigars with the logo "Aruhiba". Petrocchi considers Aruhiba a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars. The company sells International cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five

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In Jordan

Dozens wounded as protesters clash

By JAMAL HALABY
Associated Press

ZARQA, Jordan – Hundreds of protesting Islamic hardliners clashed with supporters of Jordan's king on Friday, wounding dozens, in the latest move by the extremist movement to assert itself amid the country's wave of anti-government demonstrations.

A crowd of about 350 extremist Salafi Muslims faced off with a slightly smaller group of king loyalists in the town of Zarqa. Salafis beat the government supporters with clubs and fists, and the two sides hurled stones at each other, leaving people bloodied on the ground.

The Salafi movement an ultraconservative version of Islam with an ideology similar to al-Qaida's is banned in Jordan, but it has grown in strength in recent years and Salafis have held a series of rallies in various parts of the country in recent weeks.

Their demonstrations are separate from the 14-week-old wave of anti-government protests by leftists and more moderate Islamists demanding democratic reforms in the Arab U.S. ally.

More than 2,000 Jordanians took to the streets throughout the country Friday to press their demands for a greater political voice. About half of them demonstrated outside Amman's municipal building after Muslim prayers.

They held a huge Jordanian flag and chanted, "We sacrifice our blood and soul for Jordan. Reform the system now."

Police separated them from a small group of government loyalists who shouted threats: "Those who fight us, beware! Our rocks will smash your heads."

Unlike protests elsewhere in the region, Jordanians do not want their ruler, King Abdullah II, to step down. Activists are asking for some of his powers to be curbed.

The violence in Zarqa began when a crowd of Salafis ral-



A Salafi protester holds a sword during a demonstration for extremist Salafi Muslims in the town of Zarqa, east of Amman, Jordan.

lied in front of the town's Omar ibn Khattab Mosque, listening to speeches by Salafi leaders denouncing Jordan's ties to the United States and calling for rule by Islamic Shariah law in Jordan. A crowd of government supporters gathered nearby to watch.

One of the government loyalists waved a framed portrait of Abdullah in the air and marched toward the Salafi crowd.

The Salafis started to push him back, then beat him and he fell to the ground, his face bloodied. □

While NATO meets

Gadhafi forces shell city yesterday

By KARIN LAUB
Associated Press

TRIPOLI, Libya – Troops loyal to Moammar Gadhafi unleashed heavy shelling Friday on Misrata, pushing troops and tanks into the rebel-held western city, a witness said, while NATO officials struggled to overcome differences over its mission to dislodge the defiant Libyan leader.

Elsewhere in Libya, NATO warplanes struck Gadhafi's hometown of Sirte in the east, Libyan TV said. In the capital of Tripoli, there were reports of heightened security measures in an apparent attempt

to prevent anti-government protests. President Barack Obama said in an interview with The Associated Press that a military stalemate exists in Libya, but the U.S. and NATO have averted a "wholesale slaughter" and that Gadhafi is coming under increasing pressure to leave.

A helicopter circled over Misrata for several hours, apparently spotting targets for artillery in Libya's third-largest city, in defiance of the NATO-enforced no-fly zone. Pro-Gadhafi forces bombarded the city with fire from tanks, artillery and rockets, residents said.

Eight bodies of civilians were taken to a hospital, said the resident, who spoke on condition he be identified only by his given name, Abdel-Salam, for fear of retaliation. Abdel-Salam said he believes there are additional casualties among the fighters.

Rebels in Misrata have complained that NATO is not doing enough to help them keep.

"Where is NATO? This is what people are saying," Abdel-Salam said. "Their top mission is to protect civilians, and Misrata is the No. 1 city in Libya that needs protection for the civil-



Aisha Gadhafi, daughter of Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi, waves as she addresses Libyan people gathering at the Bab Al Azizia compound in Tripoli, Libya.

ians."

Another Misrata resident said Gadhafi loyalists have been firing randomly in the city, forcing people to leave their homes. Once a building is empty, it is being taken over by government troops, said the resident, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of retribution.

He said rebel-held neighborhoods are becoming increasingly crowded. "Now you can find houses with more than 10 families in one house," he said.

Gadhafi's troops have been targeting groups of civilians, including people standing in line outside a bakery, he said.

Gadhafi's troops have continued to attack rebel positions as part of a deadlocked civil war sparked two months ago by anti-government protests. The international community stepped into the conflict a month ago, with NATO unleashing airstrikes on Gadhafi-linked military targets. Libyan TV said airstrikes targeted Sirte, although it did not provide details. Explosions were also heard from what appeared to be NATO strikes against Gadhafi's forces near the coastal town of Brega. □



Mamdouh Habib, an Australian formerly detained in Guantanamo Bay, pictured in 2007, said Friday he is suing Egypt's former vice president and a son of ex-leader Hosni Mubarak over his alleged torture while in Egyptian custody.

Ex-Gitmo Australian sues Egypt

SYDNEY – An Australian formerly detained in Guantanamo Bay said Friday he is suing Egypt's former vice president and a son of ex-leader Hosni Mubarak over his alleged torture while in Egyptian custody.

Mamdouh Habib said he would take legal action in Egypt against ex-vice president Omar Suleiman and Mubarak's son Gamal over his treatment after he was taken there under the CIA's controversial "extraordinary rendition" program.

Egyptian-born Habib has claimed he was tortured, beaten and shackled to the floor after his rendition to Egypt following his arrest in Pakistan in late 2001 in the wake of the September 11 attacks on the United States.

He said he would seek compensation over the abuse, in which he said both Gamal and Suleiman who was the country's intelligence chief for over 15 years before a brief stint as vice president were involved.

"Omar Suleiman, the first time I saw his face, I was blindfolded and he gave me the biggest smack in my face. The folders came off of my face and I seen his face," he told AP. □

Budget vote:

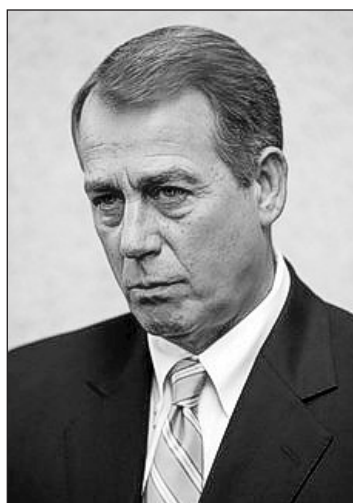
Has John Boehner lost control of his caucus?

NEW YORK — In a “stunning blow to his leadership,” the House speaker watches 59 Republicans defect in Thursday’s big budget vote

With a 260-167 vote on Thursday afternoon, the House approved the shutdown-averting budget compromise negotiated last week by Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio), the White House, and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.). But 59 House Republicans voted no, meaning Boehner needed dozens of Democrats to vote yes “a stunning blow to his leadership,” considering his earlier pledge to pass the deal without needing any Democrats, says Brian Beutler at Talking Points Memo. Did Boehner win the vote, but lose his caucus? Yes, Boehner has a real leadership problem: This budget deal is going to “really hurt Boehner’s credibility and his relationship to the Tea Party,” says David Dayen at Firedoglake. House Republicans were going to reluctantly swallow the package when it was \$38.5 billion

in cuts. But thanks to the Congressional Budget Office’s latest tally, we now know the real savings are a fraction of that. “Given this feeling of betrayal” among his caucus, I don’t see how he’ll lead them to accept other deals.

“House passes 2011 funding bill, needs Dem votes to do it” No, Boehner is even stronger now: “The easy Washington spin on this is something like ‘Boehner can’t even control his caucus!’” says David Weigel at Slate. But that’s a “pretty uninteresting” take, since he was always going to lose some number of hardcore Tea Party “rebels.” In fact, if you “think about the bigger picture,” roping in 81 Democrats lets Boehner crow about “bipartisan buy-in.” And that’s “why he’s winning” in Washington. “Boehner predicts ‘bipartisan support’ for CR, which is why he’s winning” The Tea Party is the big loser: Next time Boehner says “he can’t do a deal without the support of 218 Republicans,” we now know he’s “bluffing,”



House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio pauses during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington.

says Jed Lewison at Daily Kos. But the most puzzling thing is that Tea Party Republicans so gleefully “sidelined themselves into irrelevancy.” After all, now that Boehner has shown he can push through bills without them, “what possible relevance do they have” to the next round of negotiations?

“Boehner turns to Democrats to pass funding bill to avert shutdown” □

Should schools be required to teach gay history?

NEW YORK — California may become the first state to mandate that high-school history textbooks include lessons on LGBT pioneers

A bill that passed California’s state Senate on Thursday mandates that high-school history textbooks mention gay and lesbian pioneers, just as other state laws have required that key native American and African-American figures be included in texts.

If Democratic Gov. Jerry Brown signs the bill into law he has not yet taken a position California will become the first state to take this step. And since the textbooks produced for California’s huge market are sold across the nation, smaller states would likely follow California’s lead, willingly or not.

Does LGBT history belong in public schools?

Yes, it’s about time: “Most textbooks don’t include any information about LGBT his-

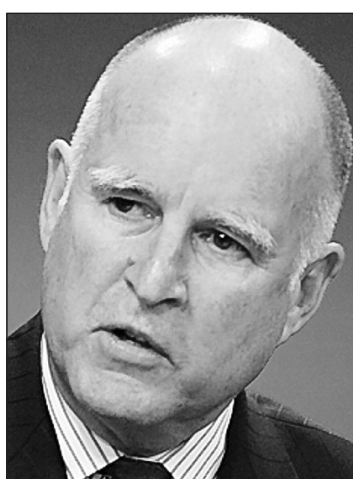
torical figures or the LGBT civil rights movement, which has great significance to both California and U.S. history,” said Democratic state Sen. Mark Leno, who sponsored the bill, in a press release. “We can’t tell our youth that it’s OK to be yourself and expect them to treat their peers with dignity and respect” if we squelch this history.

“California Senate passes landmark LGBT education bill”

Actually, the timing couldn’t be worse: “This is all absurd,” says a group of conservative organizations who oppose the bill, in a letter quoted by the Los Angeles Times.

California’s public schools are in the midst of their worst financial crisis ever, and it makes little sense to make schools pay for revised textbooks when education budgets can’t even meet basic needs.

“Textbook standards: California lawmakers fight over bill



Gov. Jerry Brown

to teach students about gay people’s contributions”

This bill’s critics are bigots: Beyond the financial concerns, says Mike Vilensky at New York, some opponents of the bill think homosexuality should be off-limits altogether, since it might offend certain students’ sensibilities. All the more reason why California should make this bill a reality “so we don’t raise a generation of ignorant jerks.” □

The power to declare war



US President Obama.

NEW YORK — President Obama ordered the U.S. military to attack Libya without congressional approval. Was this legal?

Who has the power to declare war?

Congress does, according to the U.S. Constitution. Article 1, Section 8 unambiguously states that “Congress shall have power to...declare War.” The president is designated commander in chief, with the authority to direct the military. James Madison declared the War Powers Clause to be the most important in the Constitution because history had shown that “the executive is the branch of power most interested in war,” and therefore must be tempered by a deliberative Congress.

How many times has Congress declared war?

Just five: Against England in 1812, Mexico in 1846, Spain in 1898, Germany and Austria-Hungary in 1917, and Japan and Germany at the start of World War II. The U.S., of course, has been involved in far more than five military conflicts over the past two centuries; in fact, presidents have ordered the military into action in global trouble spots more than 100 times.

From the beginning, presidents have argued that they have authority to take military action to protect vital national interests, and that congressional approval is not required if that action isn’t a full-fledged “war.” World War II represented the last time Congress formally declared war. Since

then, “the War Powers Clause of the Constitution has become a nullity, if not a quaint relic,” wrote John Dean, a former counselor to Richard Nixon.

How did that happen?

During the Cold War, the definition of “war” changed. In 1947, as the Soviet threat and fear of a nuclear confrontation loomed large, the federal government created the office of the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the National Security Council, and the CIA. Each of these reported to the president, greatly enlarging the executive branch’s authority over national security. The tipping point came when communist-controlled North Korea invaded South Korea in 1950.

President Truman wanted to go to war, but was unsure that Congress would go along. So he pushed the United Nations to act, and then argued that the U.S. was bound under the U.N. treaty to join in the effort. During the ensuing debate, Truman said his power to start a war without congressional authorization had been “repeatedly recognized by Congress and the [U.S. Supreme] Court.” When asked for a specific court decision, he snapped, “I haven’t got it with me just now.”

Was Truman telling the truth?

No. Nonetheless, a new precedent was set. Since then, presidents have sent American forces into combat many times without a formal declaration of war. □

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*In Egypt***Mubarak to be moved
to army hospital**

Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak addresses the nation in this still image taken from video

By Marwa Awad
Associated Press

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt — Egypt's ousted president Hosni Mubarak will be moved to a military hospital until he is well enough to face interrogation in a corruption investigation, the prosecutor said on Friday, as the army rulers seek to show they are serious about putting him on trial.

Little is known about what ails the 82-year-old Mubarak, who was admitted to a hospital in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh on Tuesday, shortly after he was questioned by prosecutors over corruption allegations.

State media said he suffered a "heart crisis" but medical sources at the hospital said on Friday Mubarak was in good health. A senior security source said he would be transferred to a military hospital just outside Cairo within days, where he would be under guard.

"Hosni Mubarak will be transported to the International Medical Center along the Cairo-Ismailia road given his need for special medical care," the source told AP. "He will likely be transported in a day or two."

Mubarak denied any wrongdoing on Sunday in his first public comments since stepping down. □

*In Syria***Protests sweep into capital, defying Assad**

By Khaled Yacoub
Associated Press

AMMAN — Protests against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad swept into the capital, Damascus, on Friday for the first time since a growing wave of pro-democracy unrest began to put pressure on his 11-year rule.

Thousands of protesters marched elsewhere across the country despite a fierce crackdown and some political concessions announced by Assad in an attempt to quell spreading unrest.

Shouting "God, Syria, Freedom," protesters repeated the same demand for democratic reform and freedoms across many cities.

In Damascus, security forces used batons and tear gas to prevent thousands of protesters marching from several suburbs from reaching the main Abbasside Square.

"I counted 15 mukhabarat busloads," one eyewitness said. "They went into the alleyways just north of the square chasing protesters and



Soldiers are seen near a tank in the Syrian port city of Banias

yelling 'you pimps, you infiltrators, you want freedom? we will give it to you'."

A witness who accompanied marchers from the suburb of

Harasta said thousands chanted "the people want the overthrow of the regime" and tore down posters of Assad along the route. □

*In Belarus***Authorities reprimand independent dailies**

People react as they stand at an entrance to the Oktyabrskaya station of the Minsk subway.

By YURAS KARMANAU
Associated Press

MINSK, Belarus — Belarusian authorities have reprimand-

ed two leading independent newspapers for their coverage of a subway bombing that killed 13, officials said Friday, raising fears the government could use the attack to muzzle a few remaining independent media outlets.

The Ministry of Information said it had issued a formal warning to the Nasha Niva and Narodnaya Volya dailies that their reports on Monday's bombing had hurt public interests and discredited authorities.

The reprimands have fueled concerns that authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko's government was using the bombing as a pretext to uproot the last vestiges of political pluralism in the ex-Soviet nation.

The subway blast was the first deadly bombing in the tightly-controlled ex-Soviet nation of 10 million, an ethnically Slavic and largely Russian Orthodox nation with no significant separatist or religious militant groups. □

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In Japan

Evacuees annoyed at compensation offer



Handout provided by Japan's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency (NISA) shows engineers checking facilities at the control room of the stricken Fukushima nuclear power plant. Three workers at Japan's stricken Fukushima Dai-ichi plant were exposed to high radiation as they sought to restore power to reactor three, with two hospitalised, the nuclear safety agency said

By SHINO YUASA
Associated Press

TOKYO — The crisis at Japan's tsunami-crippled nuclear plant forced Kazuko Suzuki to flee her home without packing, ended her job at a welfare office and cost her 18-year-old son an offer for work of his own.

The plant operator's announcement Friday that it would pay \$12,000 in initial compensation to each evacuated household struck her as far too little to repay her family for the economic turmoil it has already suffered.

"I'm not satisfied," said the 49-year-old single mother from Futaba, who has lived for the past month with her two teenage sons at a shelter in a high school north of Tokyo. "I feel like this is just a way to take care of this quickly."

Suzuki is among tens of thousands forced to leave their homes because of radiation leaking from the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant, unsure of when, if ever, they will be able to return. The complex's cooling systems were disabled by the March 11 tsunami, which was spawned by a magnitude 9.0 earthquake.

Some have traveled hundreds of miles to Tokyo Electric Power Co.'s headquarters in the capital to press their demands for compensation. Pressed by the government as well, TEPCO announced it would begin distributing money April 28. "We have decided to pay provisional compensation to provide a little help for the people" TEPCO President Masataka Shimizu told a news conference.

Roughly 48,000 households living within about 20 miles of the crippled plant would be eligible for the initial payments 1 million yen for families and 750,000 yen for single adults, the government said. The government said more was expected to be paid later.

TEPCO expects to pay 50 billion yen in the initial round of compensation. As costs mount for the utility, Shimizu said the company would consider cutting executive salaries as well as a number of its employees.

Suzuki said the evacuation has placed a serious financial burden on her family, forcing it to buy clothes, food and other basics.

"We've had to spend money on so many extra things, and we don't know how long this could go on," she said. □

In Syria

Tear gas fired as thousands march

By BASSEM MROUE
Associated Press

BEIRUT — Security forces fired tear gas and beat protesters with batons Friday as tens of thousands of people marched toward the Syrian capital demanding far greater reforms than the limited concessions offered by President Bashar Assad over the past four weeks, witnesses said.

The violence in the Damascus suburb of Douma was the only major unrest reported during protests in several Syrian cities on Friday, the main day for demonstrations across the Arab world. But the attempt to reach the capital was a bold action by a protest movement that has mostly stayed outside Damascus so far.

The protesters in Douma held up yellow cards, which they said was a soccer-inspired warning to the regime.

"This is our first warning, next time we will come with the red cards," said one protester who spoke to The Associated Press by telephone. He asked that his name not be used because of fears for his



Tens of thousands of people chanting 'Freedom!' held protests in several Syrian cities Friday, demanding far greater reforms than the limited concessions offered by President Bashar Assad over the past four weeks, witnesses said.

personal safety.

The monthlong protest movement in Syria has steadily gathered momentum as tens of thousands of people demand sweeping reforms in Assad's authoritarian regime. More than 200 people have been killed during the government crackdown on protesters, according to Syria's main pro-democracy group.

On Friday, crowds gathered in several Syrian cities chanting "Freedom!" and demanding an end to the decades-old emergency laws, which allow the regime a free hand to ar-

rest people without charge. Lifting the state of emergency has been a key demand of the protesters. The largest protests were in Douma and in the southern city of Daraa, which has become the epicenter of the protest movement. Witnesses said there were up to 100,000 people outside the capital and at least 20,000 in Daraa. It was impossible to independently verify the witness accounts because Syria has placed tight restrictions on media coverage, preventing access to trouble spots and expelling journalists. □

In Nigeria

Presidential vote with Jonathan favored



Nigerian boys play football next to a campaign billboard advertising Presidential candidate Jonathan Goodluck and his running mate Namadi Sambo at Jos, the administrative capital of Plateau state.

By M.J. Smith
Associated Press

LAGOS — Nigeria made final preparations Friday on the eve of a landmark presidential election, with incumbent Goodluck Jonathan favored to win after opposition parties

failed to unite against him.

Africa's most populous nation will be attempting to hold its cleanest election for head of state in nearly two decades with parliamentary polls the week before seen as a major step forward.

Jonathan's main challenger is ex-military ruler Muhammadu Buhari, who benefits from significant support in the country's mainly Muslim north. Jonathan, a southern Christian, is the first president from the oil-producing Niger Delta region.

Despite the progress, violence also cast a shadow over last week's efforts in Africa's largest oil producer, with bomb blasts and other attacks leaving more than 30 dead.

Security has once again been tightened ahead with land borders shut and vehicle restrictions due to take effect Friday evening.

With the results of parliamentary elections so far showing the ruling party losing ground, the country's two main opposition parties had restarted negotiations this week on forming an alliance against Jonathan. □

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In Afghanistan

Suicide bomber murders prominent police chief

By MIRWAIS KHAN
Associated Press

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan

— A suicide bomber wearing a police uniform killed the top police official in the Taliban stronghold of Kandahar province, infiltrating his heavily defended headquarters and blowing himself up beside the police chief's car, government spokesmen said.

Khan Mohammad Mujahid, one of Afghanistan's most prominent law enforcement officials, was killed outside of his office Friday, said his deputy, Shair Shah Yusefzai. Two other police officers were killed and three were wounded, he said.

And in continuing fighting in eastern Afghanistan, an international coalition trooper was killed by insurgents on Friday. No further information was released pending notification of the service member's next of kin.

The attack was a hard blow for Afghanistan's fledgling security forces. Mujahid, who assumed his post in Kandahar earlier this year, was perceived as one of Afghanistan's most capable and experienced security chiefs. A native of Kandahar, he was a friend of Afghan President Hamid Karzai and a veteran of Afghanistan's insurgency against the Soviet Union in the 1980s. Taliban spokesman Qari Yousef Ahmadi took responsibility for the attack. "We told Khan Mohammad several times to leave his job, but he did not heed our warnings so we killed him," said Ahmadi. Mujahid had survived at least three previous assassination attempts, including one at his home and another as his convoy drove through Kandahar's provincial capital. □



Khan Mohammad Mujahid, the police chief of Kandahar is shown in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

In Gaza

Kidnapped Italian activist found dead

By IBRAHIM BARZAK
Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip —

Gaza's Hamas rulers launched a manhunt Friday for al-Qaida-inspired Islamic militants believed to have killed an Italian activist, in a slaying that underscored the difficulties Hamas faces controlling even more radical factions in the blockaded strip.

Hamas police stormed an apartment in Gaza City where Vittorio Arrigoni, 36, was being held by members of a small extremist group that kidnapped him on Thursday. They found his body, and the apartment was otherwise empty. A statement by police said his body had "signs of strangulation and hanging around his neck," as well as marks of handcuffs on his hands and marks of beating on his face.

It was the first such kidnapping of a foreigner in the Gaza Strip since the militant group Hamas took power in the tiny Mediterranean coastal territory in 2007. It highlighted the challenge that Iran-backed Hamas a group with a militant Islamist ideology that is considered a terrorist organization by the U.S., the European Union and



Friends of Italian activist Vittorio Arrigoni gather during a protest against the killing of Arrigoni, in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

Israel — faces from smaller factions in Gaza that see it as too pragmatic.

They are mostly part of the Salafi movement has grown across the Middle East, preaching ultraconservative Islam that strictly segregates the sexes and vehemently reject anything but a strict, hard-line interpretation of Islamic Shariah law. Some, including the group apparently behind Arrigoni's abduction, are inspired by al-Qaida and call for actively waging jihad, or holy war, against those perceived as Islam's enemies.

They oppose Hamas for not enforcing strict Islamic law and for adhering even in part

to cease-fires with Israel.

Ibrahim Ahmed, professor of political science at Gaza University, and an expert on Islamic groups, told the Associated Press that Salafis in Gaza list only a few hundred members but still pose a threat to Hamas.

"The problem with these groups is that they recruit young people who see Hamas as compromising with Israel," Ahmed said. "They are a relatively new phenomena that emerged in Gaza after the Israeli withdrawal in 2005." He said the only way for Hamas to reverse the tide was to brave criticism, put radicals on trial and "re-educate" recruits. □

Who's Serious Now?

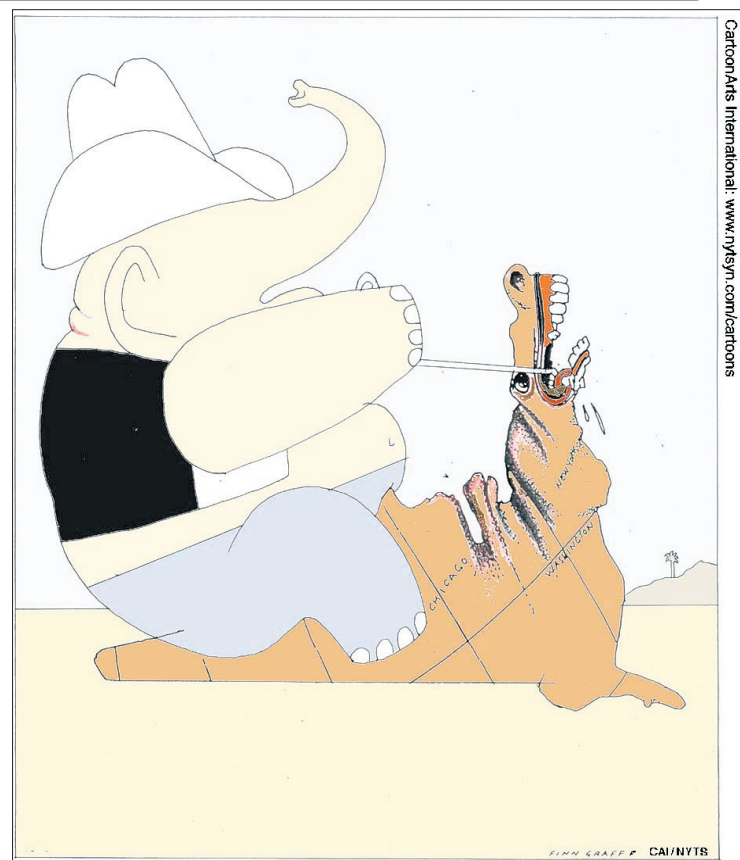


By PAUL KRUGMAN
© 2011 New York Times

Paul Ryan, the chairman of the House Budget Committee, sounds upset. And you can see why: President Barack Obama, to the great relief of progressives, has called his bluff. Last week, Ryan unveiled his budget proposal, and the initial reaction of much of the punditocracy was best summed up (sarcastically) by the blogger John Cole: "The plan is bold! It is serious! It took courage! It re-frames the debate! The ball is in Obama's court! Very wonky! It is a game-changer! Did I mention it is serious?" Then people who actually un-

derstand budget numbers went to work, and it became clear that the proposal wasn't serious at all. In fact, it was a sick joke. The only real things in it were savage cuts in aid to the needy and the uninsured, huge tax cuts for corporations and the rich, and Medicare privatization. All the alleged cost savings were pure fantasy. On Wednesday, as I said, the president called Ryan's bluff. After offering a spirited (and reassuring) defense of social insurance, he declared, "There's nothing serious about a plan that claims to reduce the deficit by spending a trillion dollars on tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires. And I don't think there's anything courageous about asking for sacrifice from those who can least afford it and don't have any clout on Capitol Hill." Actually, the Ryan plan calls for \$2.9 trillion in tax cuts, but who's counting? And then Obama laid out a

budget plan that really is serious. The president's proposal isn't perfect, by a long shot. My own view is that while the spending controls on Medicare he proposed are exactly the right way to go, he's probably expecting too much pay-off in the near term. And over the longer run, I believe that we'll need modestly higher taxes on the middle class as well as the rich to pay for the kind of society we want. But the vision was right, and the numbers were far more credible than anything in the Ryan sales pitch. And the hissy fit – I mean, criticism – the Obama plan provoked from Ryan was deeply revealing, as the man who proposes using budget deficits as an excuse to cut taxes on the rich accused the president of being "partisan." Ryan also accused the president of being "dramatically inaccurate" – this from someone whose plan included a \$200 billion



error in its calculation of interest costs and appears to have made an even bigger error on Medicaid costs. He didn't say what the inaccuracies were. And now for something completely wonkish: Can we talk, briefly, about politicians talking about drugs?

For the contrast between Ryan last week and Obama on Wednesday wasn't just about visions of society. There was also a difference in visions of how the world works. And nowhere was that clearer than in the issue of how Medicare should pay for drugs. □

Ultimate Spoiler Alert



By DAVID BROOKS
© 2011 New York Times

President Barack Obama and Paul Ryan are two of the smartest, most admirable and most genial men in Washington. It is sad, although not strange, that in today's Washington they have never had a serious private conversation. The president has never invited Ryan over even for lunch. As a result, both men are misinformed about the other, and both have developed a cold contempt for the other's position. Obama believes Ryan wants to take America back to what he sees as the savage capitalism of the 1920s

(or even the 1760s). Ryan believes Obama wants to turn America into a declining European welfare state. If they met, would they resolve their differences? No, but they would understand them better. Paul Ryan believes five things Barack Obama does not. First, he believes that aging populations, expensive new health care technologies and the extravagant political promises have made the current welfare state model unsustainable. Fundamental reform is necessary or the whole thing will collapse, here and in Europe. Second, he believes that seniors and the middle class cannot be excused from the benefit cuts that will have to be imposed to rebalance these systems. Third, he believes that health care costs will not be brought under control until consumers take responsibility for their decisions and providers have market-based incentives to reduce prices. □

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Beating Real Madrid - “a giant step”

FC Barcelona’s coach Pep Guardiola speaks at a press conference at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on the eve of their Spanish League football match against Real Madrid. Guardiola says beating Real Madrid on Saturday would be “a giant step” towards retaining the Spanish league title this year.

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Saturday, April 16, 2011

Monte Carlo Masters

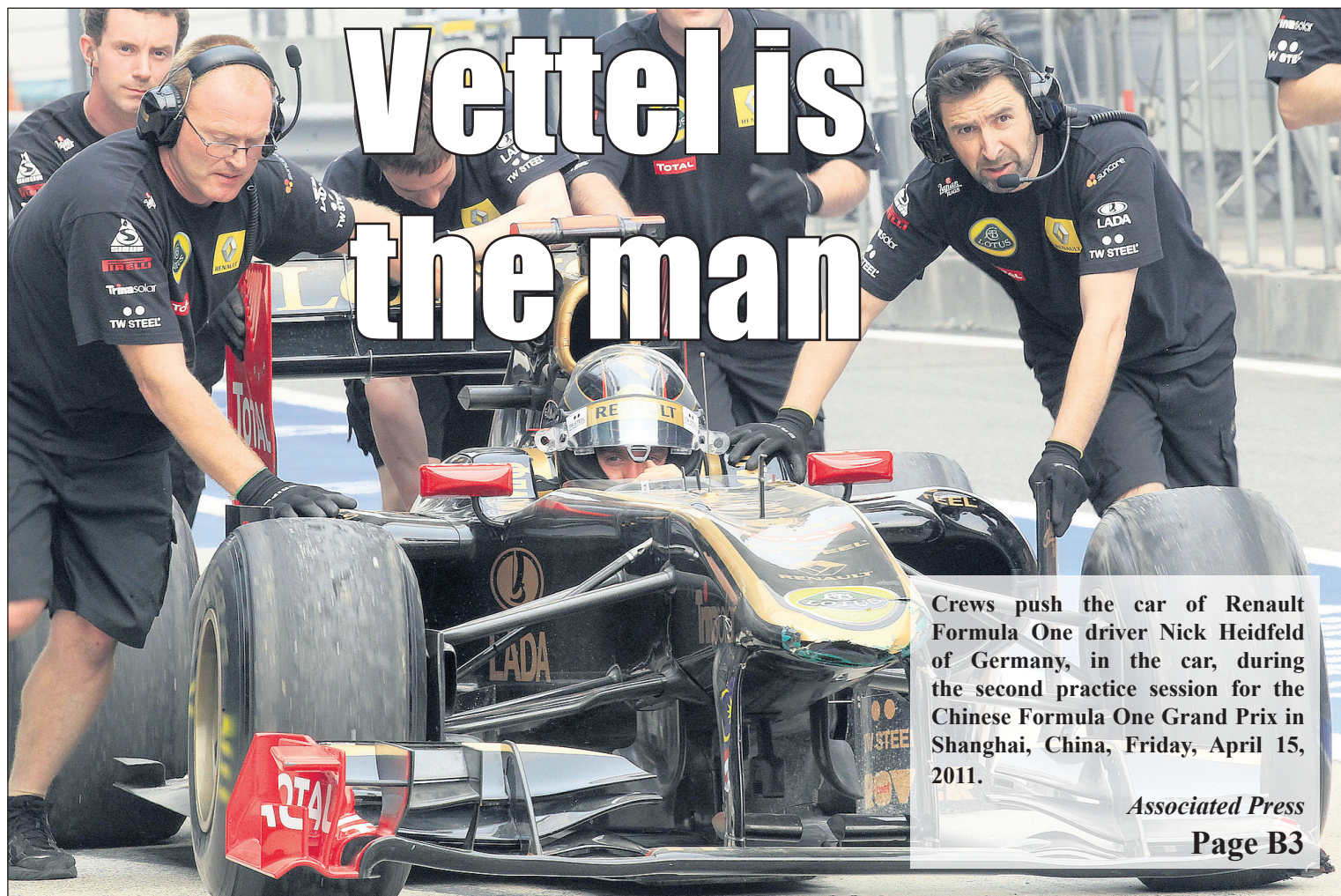
Federer loses to Melzer



Jurgen Melzer of Austria plays a return to Roger Federer of Switzerland during their quarterfinal match of the Monte Carlo Tennis Masters tournament in Monaco, Friday, April 15, 2011.

(AP Photo)

JEROME PUGMIRE,
AP Sports Writer
MONACO (AP) — Roger Federer’s first clay court tournament of the year ended abruptly on Friday when he was ousted at the Monte Carlo Masters by an aggressive left-hander — and it wasn’t Rafael Nadal. Federer fell 6-4, 6-4 to Jurgen Melzer in the quarterfinals, the former top-ranked player’s earliest loss in a tournament since Wimbledon last year. Nadal, meanwhile, racked up his 35th straight win at the tournament by comfortably beating Ivan Ljubicic 6-1, 6-3 to set up a semifinal against No. 4-ranked Andy Murray. Federer has been beaten three times by Nadal in the Monte Carlo final and the pair were widely expected to meet for a fourth time on Sunday. □



Crews push the car of Renault Formula One driver Nick Heidfeld of Germany, in the car, during the second practice session for the Chinese Formula One Grand Prix in Shanghai, China, Friday, April 15, 2011.

Associated Press
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McIlroy shares lead at Malaysian Open

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Rory McIlroy shot an impressive 8-under 64 to share the clubhouse lead as the second day of the Malaysian Open was cut short by thunder and lightning on Friday. Play at the Kuala Lumpur Golf and Country Club was halted for nearly three hours before it resumed but 77 players, including newly-crowned Masters champion Charl Schwartzel, failed to complete their rounds and will continue Saturday. McIlroy shrugged off last week’s final-round collapse at the Masters by sinking eight birdies to share the lead at 11-under 133 with overnight leader Alexander Noren of Sweden, who added a 69 to his first-round 64. McIlroy, who led the Masters for 63 holes before a back nine of 43 crushed his hopes of winning his first major, said he was in a “great position” in Malaysia heading into the weekend. “It helps when you have a morning tee time here as you are up pretty early,” the Northern Irishman said. “I went out and played well, and holed a couple of putts. I’ve been driving the ball pretty good, which you need to around here.” □



Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland tees off next to Germany’s Martin Kaymer on the 14th hole during the second round of the Malaysian Open golf tournament in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Friday, April 15, 2011.

Associated Press

Real Madrid vs Barcelona

Barca win would be 'giant step' to title

BARCELONA, Spain — Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola says beating Real Madrid on Saturday would be "a giant step" towards retaining the Spanish league title this year.

The Catalan club hold a commanding eight point lead over Real with seven games left and victory over their foes would virtually seal the league title, while a draw would still leave Madrid with a mountain to climb.

"If we obtain a good result we will take a giant step to reach the final and be champions again," he told a news conference on Friday ahead of the match.

"We have to have a really good match to be able to

beat them. (Real coach) Jose Mourinho changes strategies frequently during matches so we have to pay close attention and adapt," he added.

"When you go to the Bernabeu you can't have a relaxed attitude,

you have to be very ambitious otherwise they will run you over."

Saturday's match kicks off the first of four meetings between the two sides in just over two weeks.

The two sides will meet again on Wednesday in the Spanish Cup final which will be followed by their two-legged Champions League semi-final -- with the first game at Real's Bernabeu stadium on April 27 and Barcelona hosting the second on May 3. □

U.S. beckons for Khan

MANCHESTER, England — Amir Khan's WBA light welterweight title defense against Paul McCloskey on Saturday will likely be a rare chance for British fans to see him fight on home soil.

A broadcasting dispute has overshadowed Khan's first fight in England since 2009, and the boxer believes American television companies will give him more support.

"I'm not going to say it could be my last fight in Britain," Khan said.

"But I think it will be a long time until I come back again because, while I want to have the big fights in England, it will be quite difficult to make them. I think they will probably be more likely in America."

The fight Saturday was moved from BSkyB's pay-per-view channel to its regular subscription sports channel, which gives Khan more



British boxers Amir Khan, left, and Paul McCloskey face each other during the weigh-in at a shopping center in Manchester, England, Friday, April 15, 2011. Amir Khan's WBA light welterweight title defense against Paul McCloskey on Saturday will be a rare chance for British fans to see him fight on home soil, with his bouts set to return to the United States.

(AP Photo/PA, Dave Thompson)

exposure but less money.

In protest, Khan (24-1, 17 KOs) took his fight away from the network to an obscure channel in Britain, Primetime. HBO will show the fight in the U.S.

"I've always said from day one that there is more money to be made for me in America if I fought there, but I chose to come here and fight live in front of my own fans," Khan said. □

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Price blanks Bruins 2-0 as Canadiens win opener



Boston Bruins center Brad Marchand, left, shoots as Montreal Canadiens goalie Carey Price makes the save in the first period of a first-round NHL hockey playoff game in Boston.

Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Carey Price returned as Montreal's starting playoff goalie with his third postseason shutout and Brian Gionta scored twice as the Canadiens opened the series with a 2-0 win over the Boston Bruins on Thursday. Price started one of the Canadiens 19 playoff games last year when they reached the Eastern Conference finals. Jaroslav Halak started the others but was traded to the St. Louis Blues in June. This season Price started 70 games and on Thursday he turned aside 31 shots. Gionta scored at 2:45 of the first period and at 16:42 of the third. The Bruins dominated play in the last 10 minutes of the second and ended that period with a 26-14 advantage in shots. The game was played cleanly without any fights between the teams that had several physical confrontations during the regular season.

Sabres 1, Flyers 0

At Philadelphia, Ryan Miller stopped 35 shots for his second career postseason shutout

and Patrick Kaleta scored to lift Buffalo over Philadelphia in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference playoff series. Miller stopped every shot under all types of pressure and carried the Sabres to the clutch opening win. The teams have met eight times in the postseason and the Game 1 winner won the series each time. Kaleta snapped the scoreless tie early in the third period when he powered a rebound past rookie Sergei Bobrovsky. No team was more resilient in last year's playoffs than the Flyers. They trailed Boston 3-0 in the East semifinals before taking the series and playing until a Game 6 loss to Chicago in the Stanley Cup finals. Game 2 is Saturday in Philadelphia.

Sharks 3, Kings 2, OT

At San Jose, California, Joe Pavelski scored 14:44 into overtime to give San Jose a victory over Los Angeles in Game 1 of their all-California opening round playoff series. □

Vettel fastest in Chinese GP practice

SHANGHAI (AP) — Red Bull driver Sebastian Vettel gave another strong signal that he is the man to beat at this weekend's Chinese Grand Prix by setting the fastest time in Friday's practice sessions. Vettel's best time was almost two tenths of a second faster than McLaren's Lewis Hamilton, who in turn was a tenth faster than teammate Jenson Button in an afternoon session that was shrouded in Shanghai smog.

Vettel's performance added to a sense of inevitability about a victory for the German this weekend.

In both the opening two grands prix, he won the race after setting pole position, and had also claimed pole in the past two races in China. Should he succeed on Sunday, he will become the first man since Michael Schumacher in 2004 to win the opening three races of a season.

"We found a good rhythm and we're happy with the car," Vettel said. "There's still a lot to do and it will be tight tomorrow and on Sunday, so we'll look where we can improve. But today we had no big issues."

The Mercedes pair of Nico Rosberg and Schumacher were fourth and fifth respectively in a performance that will give encouragement to a team that has had a difficult start to the season. Schumacher said Friday's practice was "clearly an improvement" over that of previous races. Ferrari's Felipe Massa clocked the sixth best time, and Force India's Adrian Sutil was seventh ahead of the Renault pair of Nick Heidfeld — whose practice time was reduced by spinning into fences in both sessions — and Vitaly Petrov.



Renault Formula One driver Nick Heidfeld of Germany drives out of the gravel after going off the track during the second practice session for the Chinese Formula One Grand Prix at the Shanghai International Circuit in Shanghai, China, Friday, April 15, 2011. (AP Photo/Mark Baker)

Red Bull's Mark Webber was second fastest in morning practice but down in 10th in the afternoon as he experienced problems with his low-fuel, run on soft tires, but was happy with the high-fuel setting. Webber said the car was reliable, but the team would wait until it assesses the data Friday night before deciding whether to use the KERS power-boost

system in Saturday's qualifying and Sunday's race. They did not use it in Australia, and it was unreliable in Malaysia. Ferrari's Fernando Alonso was 14th fastest after missing much of the afternoon with a hydraulic problem, and even though the Spaniard was pleased at an improved tire warm-up rate, he still believed Ferrari was off the pace of its main rivals. □

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late show:	11:30	
HALL PASS	5:00 - 7:15 - 9:30	
daily:	12:30 - 2:45	R
late show:	11:45	
HOP	4:30 - 7:00 - 9:15	PG
daily:	12:00 - 2:15	
late show:	11:30	
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daily:	12:15 - 3:00	PG
late show:	12:00	
SCREAM 4	4:30 - 6:45 - 9:00	NEW
daily:	2:00	R
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SUCKER PUNCH	6:15 - 8:45	
daily:	1:15 - 3:45	SP PG-13
late show:	11:15	
HOP	5:30 - 7:45	PG
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late show:		
HANNA	4:15 - 6:45 - 9:15	PG-13
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late show:	11:45	
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Matinee: sat - sun | Late show: fri & sat

In verdict

Bonds defense sees a reason to smile

By JULIET MACUR
© 2011 New York Times

SAN FRANCISCO – The lawyers for Barry Bonds did not consider it a failure that he was convicted Wednesday of obstructing justice for giving evasive answers to a grand jury more than seven years ago. After the verdict was announced in U.S. District Court, the lawyers even seemed to celebrate the outcome – a conviction on one count and no verdict on the other three.

“Go figure,” Allen Ruby, one of Bonds’ lawyers, said with a laugh outside the courthouse to Cris Arguedas, who is also on Bonds’ legal team.

“Yep, go figure,” Arguedas answered, as they both grinned.

For now, the conviction on an obstruction of justice charge means Bonds faces a maximum 10-year prison sentence, but the defense team predicted the conviction would not stick. The lawyers said they expected the judge, Susan Illston, to throw out that conviction at a hearing May 20.

They said Bonds needed to be convicted on at least one of the three perjury charges he faced to be guilty of obstructing justice. Instead, Bonds was convicted only of impeding a federal investigation in



2003 when he gave intentionally evasive, false or misleading statements to a grand jury investigating the use of performance-enhancing drugs by elite athletes.

“There was no conviction on any allegations that had to do with steroids or human growth hormone or anything that had to do with performance-enhancing drug use,” Arguedas said in a telephone interview after the verdict. “So we will be filing post-trial briefs that will have a great deal of merit.”

Legal experts said the case for having Bonds’ conviction thrown out was far from a certainty, but was filled with possibility.

Rory Little, a professor at the University of California Hastings College of Law in San Francisco, said the defense had at least two substantial arguments that bolster its case. He said the defense was likely to argue that Bonds could not

be convicted of obstruction of justice because he eventually answered the question mentioned in the charge. He was convicted of giving an evasive and misleading answer when asked whether Greg Anderson, his former trainer, had ever injected him. Bonds instead talked about how he was the celebrity child of the former San Francisco Giants star Bobby Bonds.

The defense will say that Bonds ultimately answered that question later in his testimony, Little said. (When asked if Anderson ever injected him, Bonds said no. The jury nearly convicted him of perjury for that statement, voting 11-1 before it deadlocked.)

Little also said the defense might argue that it is not a crime to mislead the grand jury.

“That’s a substantial argument, but not necessarily a winner,” Little said. “I wouldn’t say it’s likely to win because it’s never likely after the jury convicts.”

Bradley Simon, a former federal prosecutor who specializes in white-collar criminal defense, said the defense might say that Bonds’ evasive statements to the grand jury did not rise to the level of obstruction of justice. □

Madrid vs. Barcelona:

Four times a soccer classic

By RAPHAEL MINDER
© 2011 New York Times

MADRID – A “clasico” encounter between Real Madrid and FC Barcelona, the two biggest and most successful teams in Spanish soccer, inevitably generates high expectations.

But the prospect of four such clasicos in 17 days has triggered a frenzy here that is rekindling memories of last July, when Spaniards followed with bated breath their national team’s triumphant march to its first World Cup trophy in South Africa.

“This will be lived just like the World Cup, with the added dimension that fans will be divided rather than united behind one team,” said Andreu Plaza, a Barcelona banker who plans to attend all four matches with his wife and two children.

“Everything else will be forgotten and life will come to a standstill in Madrid and Barcelona because of the clasicos, but I think there’s also no fan anywhere else in this country who doesn’t have strong feelings about these two clubs.”

The first game – a La Liga match Saturday in Madrid – will be followed four days later by the final of the Copa del Rey, the national cup championship, held in Valencia. The two teams will meet again in the semifinals of the Champions League, with Madrid playing the first leg at home on April 27 and traveling to Barcelona’s Camp Nou stadium for the second on May 3. Madrid and Barcelona are clashing in three competitions. But the sequence of four matches in less than three weeks makes this as close as soccer can get to the experience of a playoff series between longstanding rivals in sports like basketball and baseball.

Most fans also expect tensions to build because the first match is seen as the least decisive. Even if Barcelona loses Saturday, it would remain on course to win a third consecutive league title. Barcelona stands 8 points ahead of Madrid in the standings with seven matches left.

Using the kind of rhetoric that perhaps better describes events in a bullring rather than in a soccer stadium, Javier Lopez, a 37 year-old Madrid fan, said that “it’s going to be a fight to death that will get progressively more intense because I consider that La Liga is, sadly, already lost for us.”

Instead, Lopez said he was counting on his team to deliver “a fatal blow” against Barcelona in their Champions League semifinal confrontation. He is making plans to travel to London to watch the final because “the cost of that trip will just shoot up if I actually wait for Madrid to qualify.” □



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Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant, foreground, drives to the basket past Sacramento Kings forward Francisco Garcia during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in Sacramento, Calif., Wednesday, April 13, 2011.

(AP Photo/Rich Pedroncelli)

Lakers to work on fighting gay slurs

By GREG BEACHAM,
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES – The Los Angeles Lakers will work with the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation on ways to keep anti-gay slurs out of basketball. The Lakers and GLAAD announced a partnership Friday, three days after Kobe Bryant was spotted on a national television broadcast yelling a common homophobic slur in frustration over a referee's call. Bryant was fined \$100,000 by the league, and the sixth-leading scorer in NBA history issued multiple apologies. "We

want to reaffirm our commitment to all our fans and our appreciation for the support we receive from all segments of society," Lakers spokesman John Black said. "We also understand the importance of positive messages in helping us convey this. We appreciate the input we've received from GLAAD the past two days, and will look forward to working with them on ways to help educate ourselves and our fans, and to help keep language like this out of our game." GLAAD President Jarrett Barrios said his organization will advocate zero-tolerance policies for anti-gay

slurs at sports events, similar to a policy adopted by the New York Yankees at the new Yankee Stadium. "In light of this slur, there is a real opportunity to build support for our community and educate fans of Kobe Bryant, the Los Angeles Lakers, and the

NBA about the use of such words," Barrios said. "The Los Angeles Lakers have taken a positive step, and we look forward to working with them to create messages from players and coaches that combat bullying." GLAAD said NBA executives also have agreed to meet with the organization to discuss educational tactics for the NBA's young

fans. Bryant cursed and used the homophobic slur when referee Bennie Adams called a technical foul on him during the third quarter of a victory over the San Antonio Spurs on Tuesday night in Los Angeles' regular-season home finale. Bryant apologized personally to Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese, who had issued a statement condemning Bryant's words. The 32-year-old Bryant is a former league MVP, a 13-time All-Star, the leading scorer in Lakers franchise history and is sixth on the NBA's career scoring list after passing Moses Malone last month. □

"The Los Angeles Lakers have taken a positive step, and we look forward to working with them to create messages from players and coaches that combat bullying."

Day 2 of NFL mediation ends; talks resume Tuesday

By DAVE CAMPBELL,
AP Sports Writer

MINNEAPOLIS – Negotiators for the NFL and its locked-out players wrapped up a second day of court-ordered talks Friday with no signs of significant progress. They plan to sit down again next week.

The two sides left the federal courthouse in Minneapolis after about four hours of talks, following nine hours of meetings on Thursday. They will meet again Tuesday.

Hall of Famer Carl Eller, who is representing retired players in the antitrust lawsuit against the league, said he thinks the two sides are "moving forward" but the process "slowed a little bit" Friday.

"There is progress, but it wasn't like we're right around the corner," Eller said. "We could resolve it if we had met on the weekend, but maybe not."

U.S. Magistrate Judge Arthur Boylan, who is overseeing the sessions, assigned some weekend homework, according to Michael Hausfeld, an attorney for the players.

"The judge has asked us to provide answers to over a half-dozen questions that he's asked," Hausfeld said, declining to provide details. "There's a lot of work."

With the 2011 season in jeopardy, Boylan is overseeing this round of talks after 16 days of mediated sessions in Washington failed to secure a new labor pact.

"We need to have some productivity," Eller said. "We need to come out of here with something, and I think that there is a sense of realism on the judge's part. It's not just talk. Just getting together to talk is not productive."

U.S. District Judge Susan Richard Nelson, who ordered the mediation, is still considering a request from the players to lift the lockout imposed by the owners. After an April 6 hearing, she said she planned to rule on the injunction request in a couple of weeks — which would mean next week.



New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft, left, and NFL commissioner Roger Goodell, right, leave the federal courthouse along with NFL outside attorney Bob Betterman, center, Thursday, April 14, 2011, in Minneapolis where the NFL and its locked-out players began court-ordered mediation. This was the first meeting between the two sides since March 11, when the old collective bargaining agreement expired, the union dissolved and the lockout began.

(AP Photo/Jim Mone)

Players including MVP quarterbacks Tom Brady and Peyton Manning filed the request along with a class-action antitrust suit against the league. The lawsuit has been combined with two other similar claims from retirees, former

players and rookies-to-be, with Eller the lead plaintiff in that group.

NFL commissioner Roger Goodell, four team owners and several league executives and lawyers left the building without speaking to reporters. □

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Teething remedies pose fatal risks to small kids



Methemoglobinemia

Steve Christensen
Associated Press

WASHINGTON The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a safety announcement regarding the use of benzocaine teething products in children less than two years of age. These products, marketed under trade names such as Orajel, Baby Orajel, Orabase and Anbesol, can cause a serious and potentially lethal condition called methemoglobinemia.

Methemoglobinemia occurs when hemoglobin, the oxygen-carrying protein in your red blood cells, is changed to a form that cannot transport oxygen to your cells and tissues. Benzocaine and several other drugs and chemicals are known to cause methemoglobinemia, which has been seen with all strengths of benzocaine preparations, including those with the lowest concentrations of the drug. Signs and Symptoms of Methemoglobinemia Most people with methemoglobinemia have subtle symptoms, such as poor exercise tolerance, mild shortness of breath, headache, lightheadedness, and fatigue. Cyanosis, a bluish or grayish discoloration of the lips, nail

beds, and skin, may be the only sign in an infant.

In more severe cases of methemoglobinemia, muscle aches, confusion, chest pain, respiratory failure, collapse, and coma may occur. Symptoms in infants or adults can begin within a few minutes to two hours following application of a benzocaine product, and they may occur with the first or subsequent applications of benzocaine.

Stopping the product is usually sufficient to resolve milder cases of methemoglobinemia. More severe cases may require treatment with methylene blue, which returns your hemoglobin to its normal state, or with exchange blood transfusion. Of the 21 cases of benzocaine gel-associated methemoglobinemia reported to the FDA, ten were classified as life-threatening, and one case ended in death. Another six cases were considered serious, requiring hospitalization and treatment.

An additional 300 cases of methemoglobinemia in both adults and children have been linked to the use of benzocaine sprays. 32 of these cases were life-threatening, and three deaths have occurred. □

More evidence links diabetes, Parkinson's disease

NEW YORK — People with diabetes may be more likely to also develop Parkinson's disease - and this seems particularly true for younger patients, a new study suggests. The findings, published online by the journal Diabetes Care, add to evidence linking diabetes and Parkinson's. One recent report said that U.S. adults with diabetes had a slightly higher risk of developing Parkinson's over a 15-year period, compared to nondiabetics. Neither study, however, proves that diabetes itself causes Parkinson's. Instead, researchers think it's more likely that the two disorders share some common underlying causes. The new findings are from Denmark, where researchers compared close to 2,000 adults with Parkinson's disease and nearly 10,000 people the same age but without the disease (the "control" group). Overall, 6.5

percent of the Parkinson's patients had diabetes for at least 2 years before they were diagnosed with the movement disorder. By comparison, just 5 percent of people in the control group had diabetes for at least 2 years. Overall, the study found, having diabetes was linked to a roughly one-third higher risk of developing Parkinson's. That was after the researchers accounted for participants' age and sex, and any diagnoses of emphysema which was considered a proxy for heavy smoking. (Studies have found cigarette smokers to be at lower risk of Parkinson's, for reasons that are not clear.) In particular, diabetes was related to a higher risk of developing Parkinson's before the age of 60 which is about the average age at diagnosis. Exactly what the findings mean is unclear, according to the researchers, who were led by Dr. Eva Schernhammer of



Dr. Eva Schernhammer

Harvard Medical School in Boston. But they say that for now, the "most plausible" explanation would be that diabetes and Parkinson's have some of the same biological underpinnings. One possibility is continuous low-level inflammation throughout the body, which is suspected of contributing to a number of chronic diseases by damaging cells. There might also be a common genetic susceptibility. However, even if people with diabetes have a relatively bigger risk of Parkinson's, that does not mean it is a high risk. □

Estrogen's role in breast cancer can fluctuate

By Amanda Gardner
Associated Press

Is estrogen breast cancer's friend or foe?

A recent study in the Journal of the American Medical Association, which analyzed data from the massive Women's Health Initiative, suggested the latter when it found a reduced risk of breast cancer in women who had been on short-term estrogen therapy. This seemed to contradict years of cautions that estrogen therapy once widely prescribed as an antidote for the symptoms of menopause and to prevent chronic diseases -- fuels estrogen receptor-positive breast cancers.

In fact, this wily hormone can be both, according to an edi-

torial in the April 10 issue of Cancer Prevention Research.

"Estrogen is bad at the right time, and estrogen is good at the right time," said editorial co-author V. Craig Jordan, considered the "father" of tamoxifen and other anti-estrogen treatments for breast cancer.

It's true, estrogen is necessary for cancer cells to grow and multiply, but when the cancer cells develop in an environment where estrogen hasn't been present for a while, they are killed off by an unexpected flood of the hormone, he explained.

A state of estrogen deprivation can come years after menopause, when production of estrogen naturally stops or



Dr. Jennifer Litton

even after a woman has been receiving anti-estrogen therapy for breast cancer.

In such a state of deprivation, Jordan said, "cells grow that are not independent of estrogen. They have learned to grow with just a little tickle of estrogen.

They're hanging on with a sort of starvation diet. □

Google's rapidly rising expenses crimp earnings

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO – Google is helping the economy and hurting its stock. The company is hiring so many employees for projects outside its thriving search advertising business that its expenses are growing much faster than its revenue.

The strategy came into sharper focus in Google Inc.'s first-quarter earnings report released Thursday. Higher costs spooked investors who are already nervous about a new CEO who detests Wall Street's fixation on short-term results.

Google has committed to hiring at least 6,200 workers this year, the most in its 13-year history. It added more than 1,900 people in the first quarter, a pace that would translate to more than 7,600 for the year. Google ended March with more than 26,300 workers, 28 percent higher than a year ago.

The push coincides with Google co-founder Larry Page's return to his original job as CEO. Page, who ended Eric Schmidt's decade-long tenure as CEO after the first quarter ended, has indicated he plans to keep investing in opportunities that may take years to pay off, even if that drags down results in the near term. Page, known for his aloofness, made a few tame remarks on Google's earnings conference call Thursday. He then turned things over to Chief Financial Officer Patrick Pichette, who has been steering the presentations for the past year. □



Google co-founder Larry Page arrives to a morning session at the annual Allen & Co. media summit in Sun Valley, Idaho.

Vimpelcom completes Wind Telecom merger



CEO of Vimpelcom Alexander Izosimov is pictured in 2009. Russian telecoms company Vimpelcom has completed its acquisition of Wind Telecom, making it the world's sixth largest mobile operator and majority owner of Orascom and Wind Italy.

MOSCOW – Russian telecoms company Vimpelcom has completed its acquisition of Wind Telecom, making it the world's sixth largest mobile operator and majority owner of Orascom and Wind Italy.

The \$6.5 billion cash and share deal creates the world's sixth largest mobile telecom group with a subscriber base

of 181 million, a statement said Friday.

The deal will help the company "capitalise on strong growth in emerging markets, industry consolidation and the rapid development of mobile data," said Vimpelcom CEO Alexander Izosimov while Chairman Joe Lunder called it a "landmark deal."

The acquisition includes 100

11 charged in U.S. crackdown on online poker

WASHINGTON – Eleven people have been charged with bank fraud, money laundering, illegal gambling and other offenses in a crackdown on three of the largest online poker companies in the United States.

Top executives of the companies PokerStars, Full Tilt Poker and Absolute Poker were among those charged in the indictment unsealed on Friday by the US Attorney's office for the Southern District of New York.

In addition to the charges, restraining orders were issued against more than 75 bank accounts used by the poker companies and their payment processors. Five Internet domain names used by the companies were seized.

"These defendants, knowing full well that their business with US customers and



Eleven people have been charged with bank fraud, money laundering, illegal gambling and other offenses in a crackdown on three of the largest online poker companies in the United States.

US banks was illegal, tried to stack the deck," FBI assistant director Janice Fedarcy said in a statement. "They lied to banks about the true nature of their business."

"Then, some of the defendants found banks willing to flout the law for a fee," Fedarcy said. "The defendants bet the

house that they could continue their scheme, and they lost."

According to the indictment, the companies arranged for money received from US gamblers to be disguised as payments to non-existent websites purporting to sell merchandise such as jewelry and golf balls. □



The Facebook logo is shown at Facebook headquarters in Palo Alto, California.

T. Rowe Price mutual funds buy into Facebook

BOSTON – A number of T. Rowe Price Group mutual funds reported owning stakes in Facebook Inc, valuing the fast-growing social media company at \$25 per share.

The Baltimore mutual fund company reported the stakes in disclosure documents for the funds' holdings as of March 31, posted Friday on T. Rowe Price's website. Funds holding Facebook included T. Rowe's Science & Technology Fund and Global Technology Fund. Each reported investing less than 1 percent of its assets in Facebook. T. Rowe Price funds have previously been buyers of shares in other private technology firms, giving ordinary investors a rare opportunity to own stakes in those companies.

In Friday's filings T. Rowe funds also reported holding stakes in gaming company Zynga and Twitter, the microblogging site. □

Intel Will Add Both USB 3.0 and Thunderbolt To Ivy Bridge

Barry Levine

Associated Press

Apple's new MacBook Pro models feature the super-fast Thunderbolt peripheral port, using a standard that the computer company developed with Intel. Now Intel says its upcoming chipsets will support both the new USB 3.0 standard and Thunderbolt. The news comes shortly after competitor Advanced Micro Devices said it will support USB 3.0, beginning with its A75 and A70M chipsets.

Intel's announcement represents the first time that both technologies will be supported in a chipset. Some high-end PCs already feature USB 3.0, but with controllers from third-party suppliers. At Intel's developer conference in Beijing, Kirk Skaugen, a vice president in the Intel Architecture Group, said this week that USB 3.0 and Thunderbolt will be supported in the upcoming Ivy Bridge platform. Ivy Bridge, scheduled for release next year, is the successor to the Sandy Bridge processors that are now appearing in new PCs. □



Pedestrians walk past a Bank of America sign on the street in New York.

BofA profit drops on foreclosure delays

By Joe Rauch

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina – Bank of America Corp posted an unexpectedly sharp drop in first-quarter profit as higher expenses from delayed home foreclosures weighed on its mortgage business.

The largest bank lost more than \$2.39 billion in its home loan business as revenue fell and expenses rose. The foreclosure mess that began in the fourth quarter of 2010, with borrowers accusing major banks of repossessing homes without having the right paperwork in place, was a key source of higher costs in the quarter.

The bank also named Chief Risk Officer Bruce Thompson as its new chief financial officer. The current CFO, Charles “Chuck” Noski, is stepping aside due to a serious family illness.

The first-quarter results give some inkling of why the Federal Reserve told the bank in March to rein in its plans to boost dividends, even as competitors got approval to do so.

“Bank of America is further behind. And the reason they’re further behind is because of what’s going on with the mortgage business,” said Ben Wallace, analyst at Grimes & Co, with \$1 billion under management.

The bank said it was not sure how it would resubmit its request for a higher dividend it now pays 1 cent per share quarterly and warned that a dividend increase could slip into 2012, depending on when it receives Fed approval.

The bank’s shares were down 1.6 percent to \$12.92 in afternoon trading Friday. The shares fell 1.5 percent Wednesday after JPMorgan Chase & Co’s quarterly results showed the pressure facing consumer lending businesses.

Bank of America said in March it did not expect its mortgage business to return to normal earnings until 2014 or later, while most of its other businesses could recover by 2013.

Home loan difficulties appear to be widespread among major lenders. JPMorgan, the second-largest U.S. bank, suffered extraordinarily high losses on mortgage-related issues in the first quarter.

“Unfortunately, these losses will continue for awhile,” said JPMorgan Chief Executive Jamie Dimon.

Bank of America did manage to earn \$2 billion in the latest quarter, its first profit since the second quarter of 2010.

But profit fell more than 35 percent from a year earlier, and earnings per share were just 17 cents, compared with analysts’ average forecast of 27 cents, according to Thomson AP I/B/E/S. A big portion of the bank’s profit was driven by a \$2.2 billion release of loan loss reserves, as loan delinquencies and defaults continued declining. Increased expenses from mortgages included hiring more people to deal with foreclosures. □



Portugal knifes public deficit

LISBON – Debt-stricken Portugal, negotiating a massive bailout with the EU and IMF, said Friday it had made progress in reducing its public deficit, a key measure of the country’s financial health. The government said the first quarter deficit -- the balance between spending and revenues -- tumbled 60 percent from a year earlier to 1.02 billion euros.

It said it cut spending by 3.7 percent in the three months to March while revenues jumped 15 percent, as it tightened up the public finances in what proved to be a failed effort to avoid having to call in the European Union and International Monetary Fund. Parliament rejected the government’s latest austerity measures

last month, forcing the government’s resignation and early polls on June 5.

As the political crisis racked up the pressure on the money markets, Portugal faced the prospect of paying unsustainable rates of interest to raise fresh funds to cover debt or to seek outside help, which it did last week.

Officials from the EU, IMF and European Central Bank began work in Lisbon Tuesday on working out the details of an expected 80-billion-euro bailout package which is seen locally as a painful humiliation.

After these technical talks, the package goes for the political discussions with the aim of securing a full agreement by mid-May.

The EU and the IMF have warned that Lisbon will have to implement more public spending cuts, tax rises and far-reaching privatisation reforms in return for help.

The major political parties have said they accepted the need to ask for a bailout but the pressure of campaigning for polls could make the negotiations fraught with political calculations.

For 2011, the public deficit was supposed to be reduced to 4.6 percent of Gross Domestic Product but in 2010, it blew out to 8.6 percent, way over the 7.3 percent target. In 2012, Portugal is supposed to reach 3.0 percent, the EU limit.

Portugal has to repay some 5.0



Portuguese Finance Minister Fernando Teixeira dos Santos is pictured. Debt-stricken Portugal, negotiating a massive bailout with the EU and IMF, said Friday it had made progress in reducing its public deficit, a key measure of the country’s financial health.

billion euros in debt by June 15 and most analysts believe it must have the EU-IMF res-

cue loans agreed by then if it is to make the payment and so avoid default. □

Bratz lawsuit takes toll on Mattel profit



Mattel’s Hot Wheels car from the Larry’s Garage Series is shown in Portland, Ore. Sales of Barbie and other dolls helped Mattel’s revenue rise 8 percent during the first quarter.

By MAE ANDERSON
Associated Press

NEW YORK – Sales of Barbie helped Mattel Inc.’s revenue rise 8 percent during the first quarter. But higher costs for its lawsuit over the Bratz dolls and other expenses sent net income down 33 percent.

Still, results for the quarter, which is a small one for toy makers because it follows the crucial holiday quarter, were higher than analysts expected.

Shares rose 5 percent to a 52-week high in morning trading. “The first quarter is a bit like spring training, and for a business like ours, what is key in the early part of the year is preparing the business for the year ahead,” said CEO Bob Eckert. Mattel, the largest U.S. toymaker, is gearing up for a heavy movie tie-in summer, with toy lines tied into Disney/Pixar’s “Cars 2” due out June 24 and “Green Lantern,”

Warner Brothers’ new superhero franchise out June 17.

Expectations are particularly high for “Cars 2” because the “Cars” line has been a strong seller for Mattel despite having no new movie since the original in 2006.

“Cars 2” action figures and new track sets are expected to be on toy shelves in mid-May.

In the first quarter, net income fell to \$16.6 million, or 5 cents per share, from \$24.8 million, or 7 cents per share, last year. Analysts expected earnings of 4 cents per share, according to FactSet.

Revenue rose 8 percent to \$951.9 million from \$880.1 million. That beat analyst predictions of \$905.1 million. Sales rose 7 percent in the U.S. and 10 percent internationally. Barbie remained a bright spot for Mattel, with revenue up 14 percent during the quarter, the iconic doll’s sixth consecutive quarter of sales growth.

Dolls in general did well, with Monster High, Disney Princesses and American Girl all gaining. Hot Wheels rose 6 percent. Fisher-Price revenue fell 2 percent after Mattel’s license to make Sesame

Street toys ended at the end of last year and competitor Hasbro picked it up.

Higher revenue was offset by higher expenses, however, including \$18.2 million in costs related to the latest lawsuit in its six-year legal battle with Bratz maker MGA.

A jury is currently deliberating on a federal copyright infringement and trade secrets lawsuit against MGA, related to rightful ownership of the pouty-lipped Bratz dolls. MGA has countersued.

Toy makers are facing higher costs for commodities such as resin and rising fuel prices. Mattel raised its prices on April 1 in the high single-digit percentage range to offset higher costs. Eckert said retailers have been “reasonable” about the increase. Separately, the El Segundo, Calif.-based company issued a quarterly dividend of 23 cents, payable on June 17 to shareholders of record as of May 25.

On Thursday, Mattel’s chief rival Hasbro Inc. said its first-quarter net income fell 71 percent while revenue was nearly flat at \$672 million. □

Feds say underlying inflation still low

By Jonathan Spicer
Associated Press

NEW YORK – The Consumer Price Index data for March was “in line with low underlying inflation,” a top U.S. Federal Reserve official said on Friday, adding it is too early to determine whether commodity price spikes are playing a role.

Chicago Federal Reserve Bank President Charles Evans, a voter on the Fed’s policy-setting committee, said strong monetary accommodation remains necessary as the U.S. economy improves, and it’s unlikely he will push for tighter policy this year. The core CPI rose 1.2 percent year over year, and data earlier on Friday showed underlying prices in March remained contained. The mild rise could be taken as vindication for central bank officials who have viewed the recent energy price spike as having a temporary effect on inflation.

“As long as core inflation year over year is 1.5 percent or lower, I’d be surprised if I’m advocating a tightening in policy” in 2011, Evans told reporters on the sidelines of the annual Hyman P. Minsky conference here.

“At the moment I think that what’s going on with food, energy and commodity prices is a relative price adjustment due to stronger global demand around the world, and some one-off supply effects” he added.

“Those are one-off or transitory effects and it’s much too early to say that they’ve got embedded in underlying inflation.”

After the 2008 financial crisis, the Fed undertook unprecedented emergency lending measures to rescue the U.S. economy from its worst slump in decades, cutting short-term rates to near

Irish economy making ‘good progress’



Ajai Chopra (R), Deputy Director of the European Department of the IMF, listens as Istvan Pal Szekely (L), Director of the DG Economic and Financial Affairs at the European Commission, speaks during a press conference in Dublin. Bailed-out Ireland is making “good progress” on reducing its deficit and overcoming its economic crisis but “challenges remain,” European authorities and the IMF said.

By Andrew Bushe
Associated Press

DUBLIN – Bailed-out Ireland is making “good progress” on reducing its deficit and overcoming its economic crisis but “challenges remain,” European authorities and the IMF said Friday.

The positive assessment came

on the day Moody’s cut Ireland’s credit rating, putting it just about junk status because of an “expected decline” in government finances that it predicted would hold back recovery.

The International Monetary Fund, the European Central Bank and the European Com-

mission were more positive after their first quarterly review of Dublin’s recovery economic program.

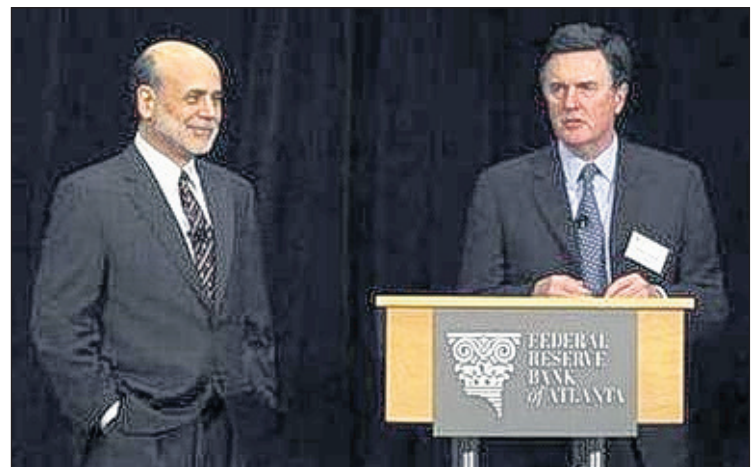
“Ireland is making good progress in overcoming the worst economic crisis in its recent history,” they said.

The program was “on track but challenges remain and steadfast policy implementation will be key,” they added in a statement.

The IMF and EU hailed the bank reform plan announced on March 31 as a “major step” to bringing the sector back to health. “The credibility of the exercise has been reflected in positive market reaction,” they noted.

Finance Minister Michael Noonan said the team from the IMF and the European authorities was pleased with Ireland’s progress.

“There was agreement by the agencies that we are fully in line with the program at the end of the first quarter. That’s very satisfactory from our point of view,” he said. □



U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke (L) stands beside Atlanta Federal Chief Executive Officer Dennis Lockhart after his speech at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta 2011 Financial Markets Conference in Stone Mountain, Georgia.

zero in late 2008 and buying nearly \$2 trillion in bonds. Though the economic recovery is gathering steam, rising commodity prices are stirring up anxiety about inflation around the world and throwing into question how and when the Fed will begin to tighten monetary policy.

Recent comments by Fed officials suggest pressure is building from within to tighten financial conditions, though inflation remains below the Fed’s 2.0-percent target and employment remains high at 8.8 percent.

The Fed appears intent on completing its latest, \$600 billion “quantitative easing” program, known as QE2.

“I now am more comfortable with the idea that \$600 billion is a good sized program, and it could well be the case that that program will end in June as we originally announced,” said Evans, whose views are usually in line with Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke and other core members of the policy-setting meeting. Inflation is not yet at a “tipping point,” he said. □

Another finalist booted on 'American Idol'



Paul McDonald performs in front of the judges on the singing competition series, 'American Idol,' in Los Angeles.

By **DERRIK J. LANG**
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Paul McDonald kept grinning despite being gouged on "American Idol." The smiley singer-songwriter from Nashville, Tenn., was revealed to have received the fewest viewer votes on the Fox talent contest Thursday after kicking off Wednesday's film-themed performances with Bob Seger's "Old Time Rock and Roll" from "Risky Business." Jennifer Lopez requested the 26-year-old sing Rod Stewart's "Maggie May" as his swan song, and he happily obliged. "C'mon, man, let's not get sad about this," he said after his dismissal. McDonald was joined in the bottom three by Stefano Langone, the smooth 21-year-

old singer from Kent, Wash., who powered through Boyz II Men's "End of the Road" from "Boomerang," and Haley Reinhart, the bluesy 20-year-old college student from Wheeling, Ill., who growled Blondie's "Call Me" from "American Gigolo."

Before the elimination, the eight finalists teamed up for various performances. This season's youngest remaining singers, 17-year-old Scotty McCreery and 16-year-old Lauren Alaina, dueted on Lady Antebellum's "American Honey," and Reinhart joined Casey Abrams, the 20-year-old film camp counselor of Idyllwild, Calif., for the jazz standard "Moanin'." "They sound like they've been doing it all their lives," said "Idol" judge Lopez. McDonald joined Langone, 23-year-old spa concierge Jacob Lusk of Compton, Calif., and 22-year-old rocker James Durbin of Santa Cruz, Calif., for Simon and Garfunkel's "The Sound of Silence" and "Mrs. Robinson." Rihanna also crooned "California King Bed," and first season "Idol" champ Kelly Clarkson performed her duet "Don't You Wanna Stay" with Jason Aldean. McDonald, the offbeat vocalist who waltzed through the competition with his signature bright smile, raspy tone and wacky dance moves. □

Television review:

HBO's 'Cinema Verite'

By **Tim Goodman**
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The absolute first thing most people will think after watching film, "Cinema Verite," is that they need to put the landmark PBS documentary and godfather of the reality genre, "An American Family," at the top of their Netflix queue.

Don't bother. You can't rent it.

And therein lies what has to be the strangest twist to the HBO film that tries to tell the story of what happened when an American family - which appears to have thought, at least in passing, that they were in some way the perfect, not just typical, American family - allows a TV crew inside their lives.

These days, that's about three quarters of the television landscape. Reality television is not just ubiquitous on American television; it has pervaded the culture in such a way and in such a prolonged form that it's now a parody of itself. People go on television not for their 15 minutes of fame, but to turn those 15 into their very own separate 30 minute reality series that may lead to additional media attention, perhaps a magazine feature - or cover! - and even some products to sell. It's cynical, predictable and enormously successful.

But back in the early 1970s, reality television as we know it didn't exist. Then a documentary filmmaker, Craig Gilbert (James Gandolfini), had a majestic idea to smash the idealized tele-



Cast members Diane Lane and James Gandolfini laugh during the Los Angeles Premiere of HBO Films' "Cinema Verite" at Paramount Pictures Studio in Los Angeles.

vision world of "The Partridge Family," "The Brady Bunch" and others by showing a real American family living their lives in front of the camera. In Santa Barbara, he found the Loud family, who agreed to have the curtain pulled back on their ostensibly idyllic suburban life. And television would never be the same again.

In 1971, Gilbert and his principal crew of Alan and Susan Raymond (Patrick Fugit, Shanna Collins) started to roll tape after Gilbert convinced a very skeptical WNET to help fund the documentary for PBS. "Cinema Verite" posits that Pat Loud (Diane Lane) believed Gilbert's hype that her family was, in theory, perfect for television. □

In new TV show

Paris Hilton ready to show real self

By **Jill Serjeant**
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — You've seen her on the red carpet, famously walking out of jail, and working on a farm in "The Simple Life".

But now Paris Hilton says she is showing a side of herself on television that fans have never seen before the down to earth, funny, relatable girl who nevertheless has a multi-million business based on being famous for being famous. "On 'The Simple Life', I was playing a character. Now people will get to see my real world, my friends, my house, my business," Hilton said on Friday. "I would never have done a show like this five, ten years ago. I wasn't really comfortable with myself. I have been through so much. I have nothing to hide. It's like, what else can happen? I was ready to show myself," she



Paris Hilton (R) and her mother Kathy Hilton attend the Oxygen panel for the television series "The World According to Paris" during the Television Critics Association summer press tour in Pasadena, California

told TV journalists.

"The World According to Paris" debuts on the U.S. cable channel Oxygen in June, and follows Hilton, her mother Kathy Hilton, and friends including Brooke Mueller, the third ex-wife of actor Charlie Sheen. Hilton, 30, the great-

granddaughter of Hilton hotels founder Conrad Hilton, has rarely been out of the headlines in the last 10 years. She got her hands dirty with friend Nicole Richie in "The Simple Life" from 2003-2007, and searched for a best friend in a 2008 reality TV series. □

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Wills-and-Kate movie:

So bad it'll be cult classic



A woman looks into a shop window in London displaying souvenirs of the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton. Prince William and Kate Middleton are to marry at Westminster Abbey in London

By GREGORY KATZ
Associated Press

LONDON — Critics say a new made-for-TV, Wills-and-Kate movie is so bad it may end up being a cult classic.

"William and Kate: The Movie" treats the Windsor dynasty as daytime soap opera. The

low-budget, rushed-to-completion movie is getting plenty of attention in Britain, for all the wrong reasons.

"So bad it's awful, toe-curlingly, teeth-furringly, pillow-bitingly ghastly," was the verdict Friday in The Guardian newspaper, which concluded the flick was probably destined to be a smash. The movie chronicles the university romance of Prince William and Kate Middleton, who in real life met and fell in love while studying art history at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. Airing in Britain and the United States before the April 29 royal wedding in London, it was directed by Mark Rosman and produced in the five months since the couple announced their engagement last November. □

Miley Cyrus says her family is fine

By MARCELA ISAZA
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Miley Cyrus says she feels more at ease heading out on an international tour now that things are fine on the home front.

Earlier this year, her parents, Billy Ray and Tish Cyrus, were getting a divorce, and her father was critical of his daughter's behavior. But the Cyruses recently called off their divorce and the family is spending time together.

"I think it's good, especially when you go on the road. You have to make sure everyone is happy before you start traveling, you're away. My family is good. □



Actress Miley Cyrus accepts the award for 'Favorite Movie Actress' at Nickelodeon's 24th Annual Kids' Choice Awards in Los Angeles. Cyrus says she feels more at ease heading out on an international tour now that things are fine on the home front.

Sheen toasts deceased man's ashes onstage

By CHARMAINE NORO
Associated Press

TORONTO — Following his streak of bizarre antics, Charlie Sheen closed his first Canadian tour stop by toasting the ashes of an audience member's dead husband.

After an hour of frenetic conversation between Sheen and comedian Russell Peters during the actor's "My Violent Torpedo of Truth" show, Sheen called out to the audience for a woman whose husband had died two years ago to come onstage. Sheen said he read about her in a newspaper article.

The otherwise raucous audience in Toronto's Massey Hall fell silent as Wendy Newman took to the stage, clad all in black and carrying a vessel. Newman told the showgoers that her husband died of a heart attack and the only



Actor Charlie Sheen waves to fans as he leaves the Chicago Theatre in Chicago.

way she got through her difficult period was by watching DVDs of Sheen's former sitcom "Two and A Half Men." When she learned the celebrity was coming to her home city, she snapped up tickets. She then posted a message on Sheen's Facebook page

asking if she could bring her husband's ashes to the show and have Sheen raise a glass in honor of her husband of 19 years. And he did. Well, a glass of non-alcoholic cider, according to Peters, since Sheen has said he's put an end to his drinking or drug use.

"I think I can now send you off, Charlie Sheen is here now," said Newman after she gave a brief eulogy of her husband.

And then, strangely, the show abruptly ended, followed by an incomprehensible video of Snoop Dogg rapping, leaving the audience confused and unsure if it was really over.

"What the hell was that?" said audience member Dale Manudoc, 25. "I didn't know what was going on during that whole show and then it just ends like that? What the hell?" □

Kathleen Turner gets 'High' as a nun on Broadway

By MARK KENNEDY
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Kathleen Turner is as confused as anyone about the heavenly detour her roles have taken lately. She's making her first appearance as a Roman Catholic nun when the play "High" opens this month on Broadway. And, in a divine bit of coincidence, the actress best known for "Body Heat" and "Romancing the Stone" also stars as a suburban mom striving to be named Catholic Woman of the Year in a new film opening at the same time at the Tribeca Film Festival.

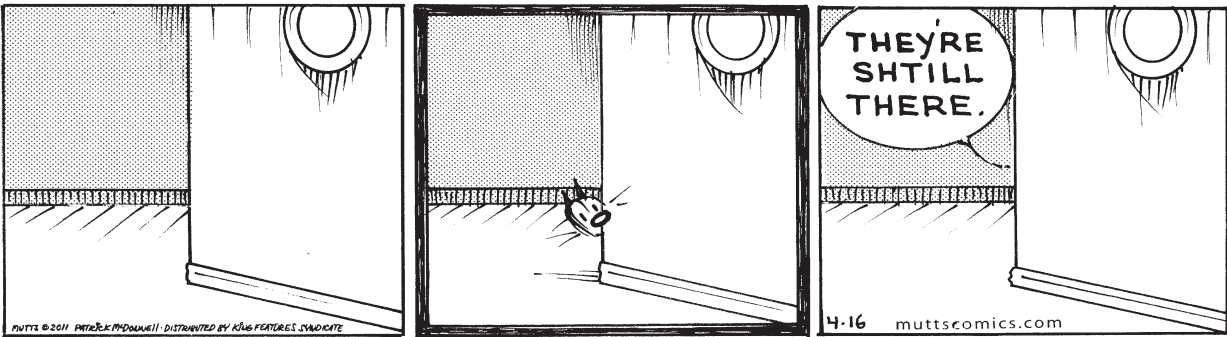


Actress Kathleen Turner poses for a portrait at the Booth Theatre in New York. Turner portrays Sister Jamison Connelly in the Broadway production 'High.'

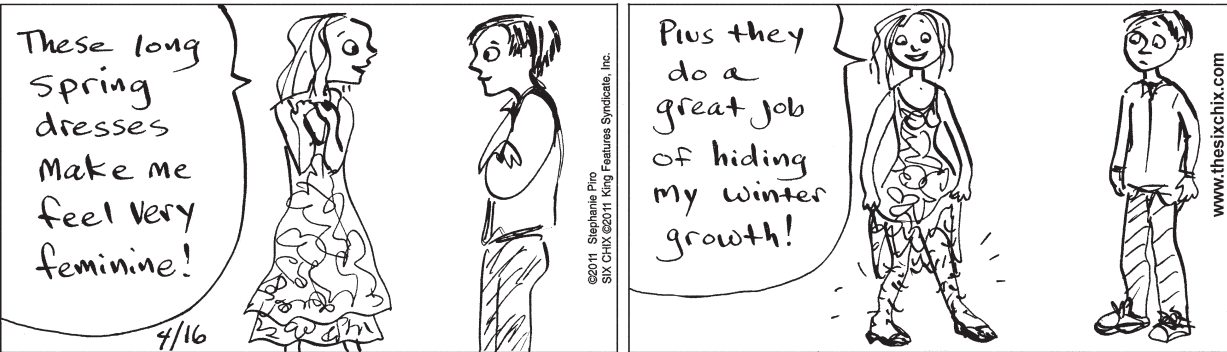
"For some reason this year it's my year of Catholicism. Who knew?" says the 56-year-old actress in her rose-filled dressing room at the Booth Theater where she's putting the finishing touches on Matthew Lombardo's play.

"I must confess that I don't believe in any organized religion," she says. "I happen to think that they're all men putting words in God's mouth. That doesn't work for me, but I certainly believe in belief and faith." The first of back-to-back devout Catholic roles has Turner playing Sister Jamison Connelly. □

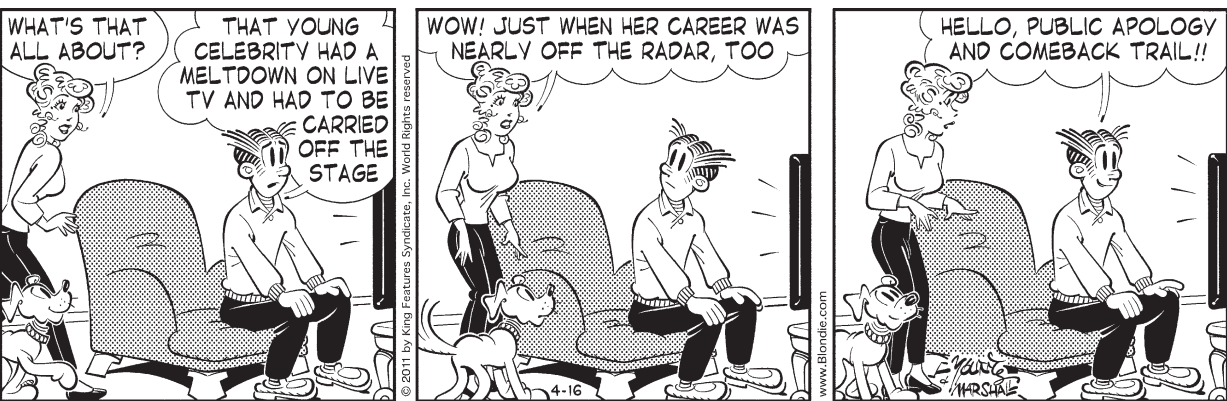
Mutts



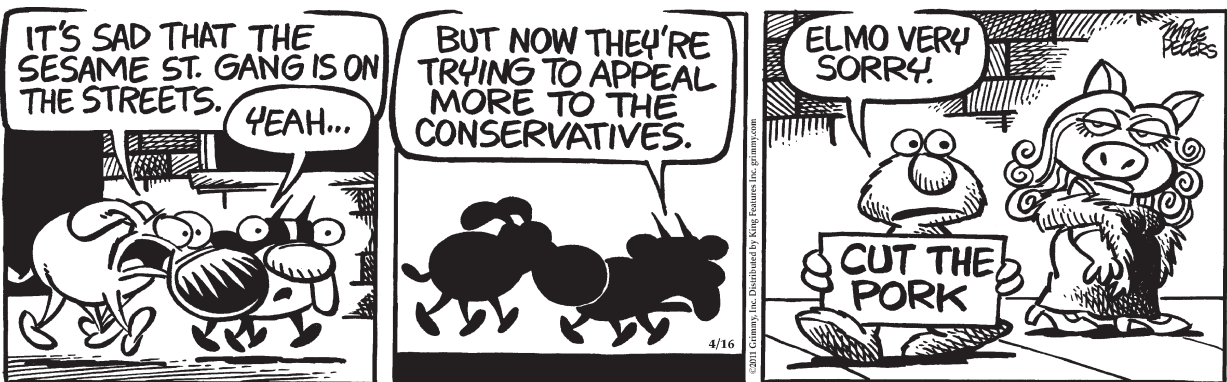
6 Chix



Blondie



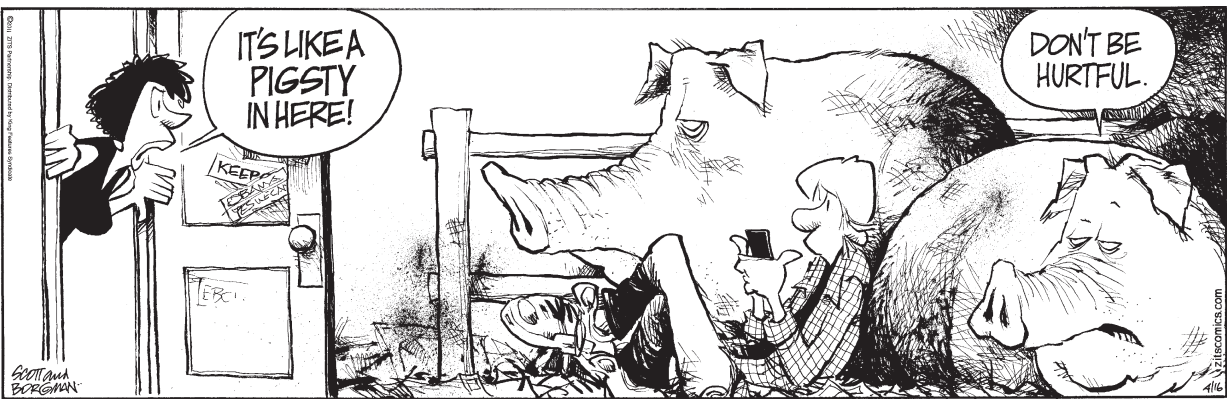
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

8		6			3			9
			9			3		
	4				8			2
7		9					6	
				1				
	3					1		5
1			6				4	
		8			4			
5			7			9		8

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

4/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

1	6	3	8	9	7	2	5	4
2	8	9	1	4	5	6	7	3
4	7	5	2	6	3	1	9	8
3	2	8	5	7	4	9	6	1
9	1	7	3	8	6	4	2	5
5	4	6	9	2	1	3	8	7
8	5	2	4	3	9	7	1	6
6	3	1	7	5	2	8	4	9
7	9	4	6	1	8	5	3	2

ACROSS

- One of the Three Bears
- ___ with; supported
- Male deer
- Frosts, as a cake
- Large hoisting machine
- Faith, ___ and charity
- Ginger cookie
- Raised strip, as of plowed land
- Prestigious British school
- Boring
- Burst inward
- Curved bone
- One part that fits into another
- Artist's stand
- 1/4 and 3/4
- Shish ___; meat on a skewer
- Drinks like Fido
- Speedometer letters
- Search for food
- "___ you nuts?"
- Entourage
- Paper sack
- 1 of 2 throat lymph tissues
- Item in a bread basket
- Dole out
- Stopped
- Metal can
- ___ mignon; steak choice
- Deserve
- Singer Damone
- ___ in; wearing
- Go back
- Swiss capital
- Hate
- Hawaiian island
- Region
- Iran's dollars
- Actor ___ Pitt
- Bleachers level
- Fashion
- Lawn trees

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21			22			23				
			24			25								
26	27	28			29				30		31	32	33	
34					35				36					
37				38				39			40			
41		42					43				44			
45						46				47				
			48		49				50					
51	52	53					54				55	56	57	
58					59		60				61			
62					63						64			
65					66						67			

4/16/11

Friday's Puzzle Solved

PILE		BLEAT				BRIM
LOIN		RATIO				LODE
OWED		INCREDIBLE				
TAU		INCH				INSET
		TINGE			OAK	
SPECKS		BALSAS				
HONEY		BIERS			BAR	
ANAT		JUDAS			LOBE	
HEN		MORON			DIVED	
		STRAIN			EIDERS	
		INN			CAROB	
RABBI		DATE			OUT	
ACEBANDAGE					PASO	
INTO		OILER			GREY	
DEAN		NEEDY			ADDS	

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4/16/11

DOWN

- Fine spray

- Pimples
- Anthropologist Margaret ___
- Is ambitious
- Scour
- Part of the eye
- Papa
- Locomotive
- ___ appropriate; considers fit
- Animal sanctuary
- Dorothy's dog
- Like peas in ___
- Trait carrier
- Cake ingredient
- Tea variety
- Block; impede
- Thrill
- Burr or Spelling
- Use up
- ___ for; choose
- Biblical tower
- Fine-grained quartz
- Sire children
- Tormé or Allen
- Merrymaking
- Passenger

- Religious sister
- College conference
- Germ
- Choice morsel of food
- Small fruit
- Brings up
- Part of a song
- Blind as ___
- Garr or Hatcher
- Maple or cedar
- ___ with the punches
- Actor Holliman
- Farce
- Lather
- Dobbin's dinner

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Studio wk 16 room 106B pool/ocean	\$6000
Divi Phoenix Beach Resort	
4studio wk 14 room 504 ocean view	\$6000
Studio wk 18 Room 803 ocean view	\$6500
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Studio wk 15 room 403 ote on view	\$6000
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Data from NASA's sky-mapping telescope released

By ALICIA CHANG

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES – NASA has released a trove of data from its sky-mapping mission, allowing scientists and anyone with access to the Internet to peruse millions of galaxies, stars, asteroids and other hard-to-see objects.

Many of the targets in the celestial catalog released online this week have been previously observed, but there are significant new discoveries. The mission's finds include more than 33,000 new asteroids floating between Mars and Jupiter and 20 comets. NASA launched the Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer, which carried an infrared telescope, in December 2009 to scan the cosmos in finer detail than previous missions. The spacecraft, known



In this undated image released by NASA taken by the WISE telescope showing a massive star plowing through space dust. The result is a brilliant bow shock, seen here as a yellow arc.

as WISE, mapped the sky 1 1/2 times during its 14-month mission, snapping more than 2 1/2 million images from its polar orbit.

The spacecraft's ability to detect heat glow helps it find dusty, cold and distant objects that are often invisible to regular telescopes.

The batch of images made available represents a little over half of what's been observed in the all-sky survey. The full cosmic census is scheduled for release next spring.

"The spectacular new data just released remind us that we have many new neighbors," said Pete Schultz, a space scientist at Brown University, who had no role in the project.

University of Alabama astronomer William Keel already started mining the database for quasars compact, bright objects powered by super-massive black holes.

"If I see a galaxy with high-

ly ionized gas clouds in its outskirts and no infrared evidence of a hidden quasar, that's a sign that the quasar has essentially shut down in the last 30,000 to 50,000 years," Keel said.

WISE ran out of coolant in October, making it unable to chill its heat-sensitive instruments.

So it spent its last few months searching for near-Earth asteroids and comets that should help scientists better calculate whether any are potentially threatening.

The mission, managed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, was hundreds of times more sensitive than its predecessor, the Infrared Astronomical Satellite, which launched in 1983 and made the first all-sky map in infrared wavelength. □

[illegible]

Perú: García destaca candidatos planteen estabilidad económica

PERU (AP) - El presidente Alan García saludó el viernes que Ollanta Humala y Keiko Fujimori, los candidatos de la segunda vuelta presidencial, muestren actitudes que reflejen su preocupación por “salvaguardar” el crecimiento económico del país.

“Nos felicitamos que los dos candidatos en campaña nos hablen de gestiones prudentes, de gestiones que salvaguarden lo que el Perú ha logrado en tantos años y profundicen el crecimiento y el empleo”, afirmó García en una actividad pública.

Mas tarde dijo a periodistas que Humala y Keiko, hija del ex presidente Alberto Fujimori, “están escuchando voces distintas” en alusión a las reunio-

nes que sostienen con otros candidatos, que obtuvieron votaciones menores el domingo último, en búsqueda de alianzas con miras a la segunda ronda el 5 de junio.

Humala obtuvo el 31,7% y Keiko el 23,5%, mientras que el economista Pedro Pablo Kuczynski consiguió el 18,5% el ex presidente Alejandro Toledo el 15,6% y el ex alcalde de Lima, Luis Castañeda, el 9,8%.

“Ojalá haya una coincidencia en torno a la estabilidad (económica)... (Humala y Keiko) buscan coincidencias con el gran sector que se quedó sin candidato, casi el 50% de la población”, señaló García.

García comentó que “creo que la in-

mensa mayoría del país quiere correcciones, profundizaciones en algunos temas pero saben que sin mercados internacionales, sin alianzas con otros países, sin inversión... el país se detendría”.

Humala propone un gobierno con una fuerte participación del estado en la economía y otros sectores que considera estratégicos para el desarrollo nacional, lo que despierta temores en los inversionistas internacionales.

Fujimori, una amiga del libre mercado, genera rechazo por el gobierno autoritario de su padre, recordado por la corrupción, violaciones a los derechos humanos, y coacción de la prensa.

García pidió tranquilidad a los inver-

sionistas ante un clima electoral que ha generado inestabilidad en la bolsa de valores peruana y en el mercado del tipo de cambio tras los comicios del domingo. La bolsa subió 3,5% el viernes, mientras que la moneda local bajó 0,04% comparada con el jueves.

El mandatario también descartó el viernes que en su agenda se encuentre la opción de otorgar un indulto presidencial al encarcelado ex presidente Fujimori, quien cumple una pena de 25 años de cárcel por violación de los derechos humanos.

“Jamás me ha sido planteada ni ha estado en mi agenda”, afirmó a periodistas. Humala o Fujimori sucederá a García desde el 28 de julio próximo. □

Ex presidente Lula recibe premio en España

BRASIL (AP) - El ex presidente brasileño Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva recibió el viernes un premio en la ciudad suroccidental española de Cádiz, en reconocimiento a su labor para combatir la pobreza, y a su liderazgo al frente de la economía más poderosa de América Latina.

La alcaldesa de Cádiz, Teófila Martínez, recibió a Lula en el palacio que alberga la Casa de Iberoamérica, a fin de conferirle el tercer premio Libertad Cortes de Cádiz, que consta de una bolsa de 18.000 euros (26.000 dólares).

Martínez dijo que el gobierno de su ciudad deseaba destacar “el liderazgo (de Lula) en todo aquel continente”, y sus esfuerzos para demostrar que puede remediarse “el mal de la desigualdad”.

Entre los ganadores anteriores del premio figura el ex presidente colombiano Alvaro Uribe y Adolfo Suárez ex presidente del gobierno español, quien ayudó a abrir el camino de la democracia tras la dictadura de Francisco Franco, que se extendió de 1939 a 1975. □



El ex presidente brasileño Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva recibe el premio “Libertad Cortes de Cádiz”, de manos de la alcaldesa de esa ciudad, Teófila Martínez, el viernes 15 de abril del 2011 (AP Foto/Gonzalo Hohn).

95% de niños dominicanos no tiene acceso a guarderías

REPUBLICA DOMINICANA (AP) - Más del 95% de los hijos de padres trabajadores no tienen acceso a guarderías, informó el jueves el ministerio de Trabajo.

De los 150.000 infantes que requieren cuidado durante las horas de trabajo, las estancias infantiles del Estado alojan a menos de 7.000.

El ministro de Trabajo, Max Puig, recordó que la ley de seguridad social estableció en el 2001 que los niños menores de cinco años, cuyos padres coticen en el sistema de seguridad

social, deberían tener acceso a las estancias infantiles donde recibirían cuidado y alimentación.

Tras 10 años de entrada en vigencia de la norma, el estado sólo ha abierto 24 guarderías.

La falta de guarderías incrementa las actividades y la explotación para las mujeres que realizan labores remuneradas, indicó la economista Carmen Julia Gómez, al presentar un estudio auspiciado por el ministerio del Trabajo y la Organización Internacional del Trabajo (OIT) sobre la falta de políti-

cas para conciliar el empleo y las actividades familiares.

Según el estudio, el número de mujeres que son jefas de hogar en República Dominicana se incrementó de 27,8% en el 2002 a 35,2% al concluir la década pasada.

La investigación detalla la falta de leyes para igualar las responsabilidades hogareñas entre hombres y mujeres, así como programas de responsabilidad social de las empresas y de la administración pública para que sus empleados cumplan sus roles familiares.

Gómez destacó que el 41% de las mujeres trabajadoras labora en las zonas francas, en el comercio y en el sector hotelero, “donde la baja calificación de la mano de obra se traduce en baja remuneración”, así como en largas jornadas laborales y poca flexibilidad para atender asuntos familiares.

Según estadísticas del ministerio de Trabajo, de las jefas de hogar que obtienen salarios o ingresos de forma regular, el 71,79% percibe menos de 264 dólares mensuales, mientras la canasta básica cuesta 275 dólares. □



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